

CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH

Your Excellency the Governor of Tripura, Padmashree Dr. D. Y. Patil, the Chief Guest, Honourable Union Minister of Power, Government of India, Shri Sushilkumar Shinde ji, Padmbhushan Prof. U. R. Rao, Reverend Yoga Guru Swami Ramdeo Baba, the Vice Chancellor of Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune, Deans of various faculties , Members of Academic Council, Members of Board of Management, Principals & members of faculty of various colleges, gold medalists, both UG & PG students, distinguished guests , members of press, ladies & gentle man..

I extend a hearty welcome to all of you on this solemn occasion of the first convocation of Dr. D. Y. Patil University Pune.

It is said that a lion during the course of his journey through the jungle stops once in a way, turns back & takes stock of the territory it has covered before marching ahead. This act of lion is called "Simhavlokan" in Sanskrit literature. Convocation is one such occasion in the long journey of the university to pause, poise & look back at a previous academic year to take stock of its achievements & ambition before marching ahead to the next academic year. No doubt convocation is an important annual event of the university but this convocation being first convocation, shall be a red letter day in the history of Dr. D. Y. Patil University.

Ladies & gentlemen ...

Any university to begin with, needs support, stabilization and later expansion. Hence activities of the university in the initial formative years were confined to curriculum development, defining process of admission, conduct of examination & conferring of degrees. With the passage of time & growth of the university, the orbit of its activities has widen considerably. Now we are into an expansion mode.

Convocation is above all, a time to celebrate the achievements of our new graduates. Before I proceed further, I congratulate all the young graduates who have received the degrees and honors today, I wish all of you a very productive and meaningful career.

I would like to extend my grateful thanks to our guests of honour, Padmabhushan Prof. U.R. Rao & swami Baba Ramdeoji for accepting doctorate degree. We are aware that in accepting this degree, you are adding to luster and reputation of the university.

My dear students..... Today we have four great personalities among us. They are all great achievers from very diverse fields. Though they are from different career backgrounds, one thing is common among them, that is --- they have all attained the pinnacles in their chosen areas through dedicated hard work. They are worthy to be role models for new generation to follow.

Let me briefly summarize the qualities of these personalities, for your benefit...

Padmshree Dr. D. Y. Patil – the founder of this educational complex is the lifeforce for all of us. I must put on record that through his guidance and vision that we have been able to scale heights and achieve reputation of institutes of caliber.

He is one of the frontrunners who have worked tirelessly for the cause of education and development of self sufficient motherland. His yeoman contribution in the upliftment of downtrodden and selfless social service is ever inspiring for the generations to come. For his contribution to social welfare he was bestowed with ‘Padmshree’ by the President of India.

Padmashree Dr. D. Y. Patil is the towering personality in the educational fabrics of India, still he is humble, very down to earth and approachable. The best thing which crosses my mind is --- his unfazed memory power. He can recognize and recollect a person with name even if he meets after a gap of decades. It really makes a person feel worthwhile. Not for nothing he is respected by both masses and classes. Though a man of few words he is firm believer of ‘Karmyog’. Once he determines certain thing he doesn’t relax till he accomplishes it. He pursues till he attains.

He is highly spiritual person inspired by teachings of great saints of all times. The secret of his magnetic personality lies in immense faith in Almighty and teachings of Gajanan Maharaj.

Dear Friends ... Our chief guest Hon'ble Shri **Sushilkumarji Shinde** needs no introduction. He is courage personified. His career graph is so inspiring that no amount of motivational speech can ever match up to it. His life is a tale of triumph of hard work, determination and indomitable will. A person like him gives us strength, hope and courage. He is a source of comfort, pride and joy to everyone who meets him. He is passionate, committed and determined to the cause of betterment of society. The spirit of this extraordinarily talented man has deeply touched the masses. Though politics brings along both supporters and critics, but this ever smiling compassionate energetic persona always ends up winning one and all. Today he is truly the most popular and admired leader on the firmament of Indian politics. Let me take this opportunity to inform the students that in spite of being in middle of active politics he is a person with interests in literature, culture and heritage. It speaks volumes about his love for the country.

Friends Our guest of honour Padmabhushan Prof. **U. R. Rao** is an internationally renowned space scientist who has made original contribution to the development of space technology in India and its extensive application to communication and remote sensing. Dr. Rao is a very silent worker, he is adjustable in nature, lovable human being, humble, soft like a wax but at the same time he is the man of firm actions. He is remarkably humane, soaked with humility but a good task master. If you read his biography, you would wonder whether a single person can achieve so much in a lifetime and still be so equanimous. One is awed by his simplicity and stunned by the depth of his knowledge.

Swami Ramdeo Baba.... this great personality is true Indian ambassador promoting ancient practice of Yoga and guiding millions of people across the world about 'pranayam'-- the magical power lying within human body. He has virtually changed the perception of common man about yoga as an unattainable skill to the easy and effective way for happy and healthy life techniques. He has demystified Yoga and using the tools of Yoga and Ayurveda has touched the hearts of millions. In fact he is empowering millions of people across the world with simple techniques of mind control, breathing methods and self discipline. He speaks with conviction and authority only because he himself practices before he preaches. He is a firm believer in the

concept of '*Vasudhaiv kutumbakam*' (a whole world is one family). His Zeal for the subject and ardent love for our motherland has been driving force of his success which he has achieved in a short span of 7 years.

My dear young achievers.....

All these personalities have meticulously chosen their fields, and strived hard with consistent efforts, commitment and integrity. They did not leave anything to fate or destiny. In spite of accomplishing the goals set, they have not relaxed or been complacent.

They are constant source of inspiration. Along with very obvious traits of successful people like passion for work, focus and risk taking, there are some common inherent factors in these uncommon personalities such as love for education, eternal optimism about hopes and dreams, keeping steadfast in one's standard of excellence and living in peace and harmony by being respectful towards the dignity of each person... to name a few.

We can draw inspiration from each of them. The effort would be worth attempting.

You should choose the area you would like to excel in. We shall appreciate your efforts on how best you can serve the society at large. Please do not be satisfied with whatever you have acquired so far, because acquiring degree is not the end but beginning of life. Your contribution would be judged on what you achieve hereafter. Remember, the life is a journey which passes through many phases where you can capture different thoughts, come across people of different nature and values, who enrich your life with novel experiences. From now on look to the future and decide what you can perform or accomplish.

Before I conclude, I would like to acknowledge the debt of gratitude we owe to the people of stature, like Padmabhushan Dr. B. M. Hegde, Dr. Rame Gauda, Dr. S. T. Deshmukh, Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra, Dr. K. B. Powar, Dr. D. L. Ingole, Prin. D. R. Karanure, for their

significant contribution in building up this University, to what it is today. The University shall always remain grateful to them for the same.

Graduates of today and tomorrow..... We hope that the quality, relevance and breadth of your D. Y. Patil University experience will help you in a rewarding career and a satisfying life. May your affection for your Alma – mater and your interest in learning be a constant inspiration.

As ambassadors of this University, please note that you are our **twinkle, twinkle little stars** - in whose capability we so much believe. Indeed, you have become so good that we even begin to wonder- **what you are**. As you enter the world of work remember to uphold our core values, which are knowledge, truth and excellence. We are a dynamic institution and intend to maintain this characteristic in a progressive and resilient India. We would like to be a proud part of the fast changing order.

Once again..... I wish you all the very best in the endeavours you pursue and achievements you attain and pray God to bless you in realizing your goals!

Thank you.