

**FIRST CONVOCATION OF
DR. D.Y. PATIL UNIVERSITY, PUNE**

**SPEECH BY
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE
UNION MINISTER OF POWER**

**PUNE
10th April 2010**

Your Excellency Padmashree Dr. D. Y. Patil Ji, Governor of Tripura, Dr. P. D. Patil Ji, Chancellor of the University, the Vice Chancellor Brig. (Dr.) Amarjit Singh Ji, the Registrar Dr. B. S. Mane Ji, the most respected Dr. Baba Ramdev Ji and Dr. U. R. Rao Ji, Dr. Gaikwad, Members of the Board of Management, Members of Academic Council, Deans of faculties, Ladies and Gentlemen and my dear friends.

I extend my heartiest welcome and congratulations to Swami Ramdev Baba and Prof. U. R. Rao on the occasion of conferment of *Honoris Causa* degrees upon them. These two luminaries require no introduction either for their personality or for their work. I express my heartiest congratulations to the students who have received their well-deserved degrees today.

I compliment Dr. D.Y. Patil ji for his relentless efforts, throughout life, in the field of education. His dedication is an example for all the students present here.

Though your University is new, the reputation of the city of Pune as the seat of learning is age-old. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Ranade, Bhandarkar, Chiplunkar, Lokmanya Tilak, Agarkar, Maharshi Karve and innumerable others carried Pune's reputation of scholarly devotion, intellectual enlightenment, patriotism, traditions, social service, public spirit, culture and inheritor of great public institutions. The people of Pune have made substantial contribution in India's renaissance, science, arts, culture, social reforms, religious quests, politics, public life and of late in information technology and automobile industry. This University is situated in an environment of such living inspiration and idealism. I call upon you all alumni of the University to carry with you all these legacies of Pune and lead yourself with dignity and discipline, that is directly imbibed on you by this University and indirectly by this great city. According to a great historian and ex-Vice Chancellor of

University of Pune, Mahamahopadhyay Datta Vaman Potdar, the city of Pune is more than 1250 years old, but can boast of rich traditions, history and culture of its own, through which it stands out compared to many other cities in India. Gopal Krishna Gokhle, a great son of the soil, advocated the cause of Right to Education to Indians with the Imperial Assembly. By making constitutional amendment and bringing Right to Education Act in force, the UPA Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has once again proven the commitment of our Government towards the people of this Great Nation.

Our country has a long tradition of knowledge and research. The Indian tradition believes that knowledge empowers and liberates the individual. Learning and knowledge have been historically revered in our civilization. In fact some of the oldest universities in the history of mankind were established in India. They include Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramshila and Ujjain universities. These centers of learning imparted education on a wide variety of subjects - Religion, Scriptures, Philosophy, Literature, Warfare, Statecraft, Medicine, Astrology and History. To our credit we had eminent scholars like Aryabhata, Chakra, and Shusruta. Chanakya who wrote 'Artha Shastra' was a faculty at Takshashila.

We have come a long way since that golden era. From a developed nation who taught the world to a developing nation on the path of growth to become developed nation, once again, with the advantage of established democratic system, equal opportunities to all and a pool of young human resource. The growth and development of our country in the times to come shall be fuelled by the growth of quality research in all sectors. This can take place only by furthering intense research and development towards technological excellence.

However, a lot is yet to be done in the field of research. All the universities, particularly deemed universities, shall have to concentrate more on Research & Development activities. The Vice Chancellor read out an impressive list the research papers published and submitted for publication. I really compliment, your young new university, for such a concentration was made particularly on Research. India ranks 21st in terms of output of research papers in science, but 119th in terms of research papers of any worthwhile contribution. The number of Research & Development scientists per million of the population is 157 in India. This is one fifth the ratio in South Korea, and one thirtieth the ratio of countries like the USA and Japan. We have 17 per cent of the global population but account for a mere 1.5 per cent of the global output in R&D.

There is no shortage of brilliant scientific minds in India. Our inability to harness our huge pool of scientific talent to rise above mediocrity is due largely to our failure to build up institutions which can nurture and inspire genius. Out of the four Indians to win the Nobel Prize in science, only one, C V Raman, was awarded for research work done in India. Hargobind Khurana, S Chandrashekhar and our newest entrant to the exclusive Nobel Prize Club, Venkatraman Ramakrishnan, have all been honoured for research at foreign institutions.

Once again if I take you back few centuries ago, where Indian education system was a *Guru-Shishya Parampara*, the education system has changed considerably after the colonisation of India and we have lost many of our ancient practises. I applaud the efforts by Swami Ramdev Baba to give rebirth to the art of YOGA and taking it to common people, not only across India but also abroad. It is not only the science of YOGA which he spreads but also the image of India. My advice to this university, rather suggestion to this University, is to set up a research centre to work on all the ancient medical practices, we had in India. This may lead us to find many facts and which may lead to find cure for many deceases like cancer, AIDS, etc. Baba ji has mentioned the number of diseases, I am not going to talk because he is an expert in Ayurvedic, I am not. I being a Politician, I have very limitations.

Dear friends, you have been trained as professionals in health care. Today, India has vast infrastructure in health-care of high quality, such that it is emerging as a Medical Tourism destination. However, one area of concern is health care service in rural areas. I would urge this young students community to give a serious thought to the imbalances that exist in our health care delivery. The health infrastructure is concentrated heavily in the large urban areas whereas vast rural areas, where more than 70% of the population lives, is left without basic primary care or public health services. I appeal to the young doctors to develop empathy and interest to serve the rural masses to ameliorate their health conditions.

My dear young friends, you have chosen to make your career in a noble profession. There are many ethical issues waiting for you the moment you enter the field. For example commercialisation of organ donations and the latest of all the Surrogacy or ART as you call in medical terms. Though Medical Council of India has issued guidelines in past and continue to do so to eradicate these malpractices in this noble profession, the true ambassador of execution of these rules are you. Unless you adopt a philosophy of honesty, integrity and join

the movement to stop all these malpractices, the efforts of Government to curb such unethical practices cannot reach to its logical end.

It is important to be a person of value more than a person of success. I sincerely believe that the knowledge which you have gained and the values you have inherited will not only promote your well-being but more importantly will be useful to contribute towards the betterment of the entire society. Sensitivity to fellow human being is a must for all of us who are fortunate enough to learn and work. Let us utilise our education to help the poor and underprivileged. I wish all of you the very best of success in all your endeavours. Please remember, there is no shortcut to success, hard work coupled with knowledge will bring you success.

Many of you who are not aware, I must tell you, I studied in a night high school. I was deprived of many facilities in those days what you all have today. But I believed in me and on the statement 'A WILL WILL FIND A WAY'. I am confident that many of you will bring name and fame for this great nation.

Today, the education system is well defined and our Universities are doing excellent job while creating institutes of excellence. However, a lot is yet to be done. I would emphasise, once again, that Universities are not only imparting education to students, but they are creating future human resources for the country. The future of nation will depend upon the type of human resource we develop today. Thus Universities today have a much larger role to play. I would like to quote Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru who said, I quote "*A university stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for the adventure of ideas and for the search for truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race toward higher objectives. Universities are places of ideals and idealism. If the universities discharge their duties adequately, then, it is well with the nation and the people*". I unquote.

I think there cannot be a better definition of University. And University is just not buildings, Labs, Infrastructure, it is the faculty what makes all the difference. I compliment the entire faculty of Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth for giving their best for creation of such a talented human resource, who are ready to go to field today and help build this great nation.

Dear friends, this is a great day in our life. Today you Graduate from here, while this University celebrates its First Convocation. I see in front of my eyes the future of this great nation blooming and becoming ambassadors of growth of India. My heart fills with tremendous joy. I must appreciate the vision that has been shown today by the Chancellor. What an example that he has given in the 1st Convocation of new university. That he has conferred the Doctorate on Dr. U. R. Rao and on Ramdev Baba. One is modern scientist and another though born in the modern times follows the ancient Pathies. I think, very rightly, that the Chancellor has chosen, on this 1st convocation, what this Institution wants to be, to combine the old and new, the ancient and the modern sciences and to show to our teachers what we can do. This never happened before, I was as a Governor, I used to be Chancellor of the Universities and used to preside many convocations. But when I came to know that, Dr. U. R. Rao and Ramdev Baba are invited here for conferring the Doctorate, I was just thinking that Dr. P. D. Patil must be a man, a visionary, who thought, in terms of both, our ancient traditions and our modern challenges. He has rightly thought of meeting both the demands, viz. restoring to our proven knowledge and at the same time seek the expanding horizons of modern knowledge. I know Dr. U. R. Rao, from 1975, when Aryabhata was launched 1st time in our country. I met him and on many other occasions later I use to meet. But today, I never seen him that he is tired. He still looks young and I think, the scientist like him, a man always, carried the flag of India high. Today he is being honoured in Pune, where the protracted deliberations were held between Lokmanya Tilak and Agarkar, whether political freedom should come first or social change. I think similar combination of you both has proven again that both the ancient knowledge and the modern knowledge together are needed in the society and this new society will have such a valuable things to march ahead for the days to come. I compliment my friend Dr. D. Y. Patil. He is a very silent person. He will talk less but the Institutions of the educations he has created are remarkable. As Ramdev Baba has said that he and I both of us, have studied in the Municipal Schools. And today, he narrated the situation; the condition of the schools is not that good. But we are proud, that in such a condition that we were educated, but we being the son's of this soil, toiled hard, worked hard. One sentence in my life, I always kept ahead of me, even today. I say, 'A will will find a way'. If you have a will, you will find a way. And I think the persons who are seating here are the examples of that. Well, my friend I don't want to go on giving more gospels to you. You are already tired, but I see that the last bench of students because I am habitual person to see. Because if there is any thing wrong, the politicians must correct. I am a person, who is always you say to correct here and take the message to the Government. Today I have learned

many things, from what this two dignitaries have talked here. Both are Guruji's, one from the science and another from the Patanjali Yoga. If our ancient knowledge and wisdom are combined with the modern technology, I think we will go ahead. It was Robert Einstein has said, that, "if you want to live in this modern age of science and Technology, one has to think in terms of modern thoughts and not fall back from the middle of 19th Century to the 18th Century." And I think the same definition is applicable today, to take India, as you have blessed Swami ji that India will grow with the Science and Technology, India will grow with the knowledge, India will grow with efficiency, India will grow with well behaved society. With these words I once again wish you, my dear young friend, a very best in your endeavour and in your life. The University has shown by this 1st Convocation the path that should be followed by other Universities. I compliment you, thank you.

Jai Hind !
