



**SANT GADGE BABA  
AMRAVATI UNIVERSITY**

**29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVOCATION**

**Convocation Address**

**by**

**Dr. S.S.Mantha  
Hon'ble Chairman,  
All India Council for Technical Education,  
New Delhi**

**Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2013  
Amravati**

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**29<sup>th</sup> Convocation**

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**Convocation Address by Chief Guest**

**Dr. S.S.Mantha**

**Hon'ble Chairman,**

**All India Council for Technical Education,**

**New Delhi**

Dr. Mohan Khedkar, the Mr. Vice Chancellor, previous Vice Chancellors, Invited guests of the University, Members of Senate, Management Council, my dear student friends, press, ladies and Gentlemen.

At the outset, I take this opportunity to congratulate the students graduating from one of the best Universities in Maharashtra, that has the distinction of having an accomplished record of service to the nation. I congratulate all those who have done exceedingly well in academics and have won awards. I feel privileged to be a part of an occasion which I am sure you all will cherish for years to come. This certainly is a defining moment in one's life.

You are members of a nation singularly blessed, yet one which grapples with serious problems. Make no mistake: you are entering a world with special challenges and unparalleled opportunities. The emerging global economy has intensified competition and blurred the lines of nationality. Technology has brought people closer together but, at the same time, has created its own disparity in the digital divide. In this shrinking world, personal success cannot be taken for granted. Only those who have the requisite skills and knowledge will prosper. The unprepared and the under-educated will, very likely, reap scant rewards.

Higher education has been a key factor for its ability to induce change and progress in the society. Knowledge alone will enable us to deal with the present and future challenges that confront us in every sphere of life whether it is in environment, health or food security. Higher education reforms are high on the agenda of the government with emphasis on expansion, inclusion, and excellence as the pillars of Higher education.

Higher education has always been identified as a critical component of India's growth story. When Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru established the Indian Institute of Technology, he understood the need for educated and skilled human resources only too well.

The five imperatives for making the Indian Higher Education system in future are Financial Innovation, Innovative Use of the Information and Communication Technologies, Reinvigorating Research, Trust on Vocational Education & Training, and Regulatory Reforms.

Annual Report of the University would probably reveal that many of these features are being met with by the University. The Indian higher education system has emerged as one of the largest in the world, in terms of number of institutions as well as student enrolment. India is third in the world in terms of student enrolment (12.85 million) whilst China (25.35 million) and USA (17.76 million). India has more than 35,000 colleges, with almost 10,000 colleges being set up in the current decade. India has the largest number of higher education institutions in the world and 681 Universities dominate the landscape.

I am happy to note that the Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University is one of the premier Universities in Maharashtra established in 1983, as a learning centre.

While the Indian Higher Education system continues to be bogged down by the challenges of inadequate access, poor quality and inequity, I am glad to note that in Amravati, the University caters to the needs of this region.

I am told that the University has 10 faculties which includes Arts, Commerce, Sciences, Medicine, Ayurveda, Education, Social Science, Law, Home Science, Engineering & Technology and that the University has facilities to offer post-graduate & advanced education in Computer, Biotechnology, Business Management, Law & degree courses in Chemical-Technology.

Despite having one of the largest higher education system in the world, few Indian institutions have earned global distinction. I am glad to note that this University is striving hard for international distinction through its links and association with the Commonwealth University, London (U.K.)

Quality of higher education in India is impacted by shortage of faculty and poor infrastructure. India has one of the highest student-teacher ratios in the world.

The Central Government retains a higher share of spending on technical education while state government accounts for a majority of the spending on general education. However, the key challenges affecting financing of higher education are – Poor utilization of alternate sources of revenue, Large share of the public spending that is incurred on recurring expenditure, Low tuition fee realizations coupled with weak systems for extending financial support and skewed allocation of UGC and Central Government resources through sub-optimal budgeting processes. Higher education institutions in India also underutilize other revenue streams such as intake of foreign students at

differential fees and providing research and consultancy services. RUSA (Rashtriya Uchcharat Siksha Abhiyan) in the XII Plan is expected to redeem many of the current problems.

A survey indicates that private institutions depend largely on student fees while public institutions depend on government grants, even as both generate little revenue from alternate sources. The survey has indicated that regulation of fees is the major financial challenge before Indian higher education institutions. Enlarging the internationalizing of Higher education space and attracting students from all over the globe are some areas that the University needs to explore.

The private sector too has played a key role in the growth of the higher education system, especially in professional higher education.

One of the difficulties of the current system of education is that it neglects certain aspects like human personality, character building and the understanding that is required to relate human beings and the environment.

Without these basic building blocks of defining the human value systems, information cannot be transformed into knowledge and boundaries of knowledge cannot be translated into wisdom.

It is also necessary to provide the student a larger view of the contemporary global world, since it is this world he or she contends with.

Every young man and woman will have to develop a general knowledge of the skills that are demanded by the contemporary world. One must possess the

capacity to exercise minimum of two or three skills, which would stand them in good stead in a very competitive world.

NVEQF or the National Vocational Education Qualifications Framework that provides multiple pathways, into and from the formal education systems, the Vocational education and the job markets is the way to go.

Value based education even though extremely important remains the most neglected. We need to conceive a programme of value-oriented education that transcends conflicting ideologies, challenges and realize the opportunities that it provides.

The theme of value-oriented education has been enshrined in Article 51A in our Constitution. This article imposes upon the entire educational system the necessity to introduce to every student the history of Freedom Struggle, ideals laid down in the Constitution, importance of scientific temper, humanism and freedom to inquire as also striving towards excellence.

Thus, as a part of higher education reforms, it is expected that the Fundamental Duties are studied with that rational rigor which leads to voluntary commitment and flourishing in an individual's life. A study of Fundamental Duties should be considered to be *sine qua non* in our higher education system.

Finally, the higher education system of India should be Indian system of higher education, and therefore, it is necessary that every undergraduate student has an intelligent and robust understanding of Indian culture. Therefore, to devise a special course in Indian culture would be worthwhile.

Let us explore all these and many more in the education that we impart to our children and the world be so much the better in time to come.

I am happy to share my views before this elite class of students and staff of this University that have a great potential to excel.

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