

Hon'ble Shri E S L Narasimhan, Governor of Telangana & Andhra Pradesh and Chief Rector of the University, Respected Dr. C. H. Hanumantha Rao, Chancellor of the University, Professor Mrinal Miri, the distinguished Chief Guest of the Convocation, members of the Convocation, colleagues, dear students and esteemed guests. On behalf of the Executive Council of the University of Hyderabad and on my own behalf, it is my privilege and honour to extend you all a cordial welcome to the sixteenth Convocation of the University.

Our Chief Guest, Professor Mrinal Miri is well-known as a philosopher and as a scholar. He has been Vice Chancellor of the North East Hill University, NEHU, a Central University that was established at around the same time as ours. Professor Miri graduated with a BA in Philosophy from the University of Cambridge in 1966 and later completed his doctorate in 1970. From 1970 to 1974 he was a Lecturer in Philosophy at St. Stephen's College at the University of Delhi, before moving to the North Eastern Hill University (NEHU). Professor Miri subsequently served as the Director of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, from 1993 to 1999. A recipient of the Padma Bhushan, Prof. Miri has been nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 2012, and is a member of NAC, the council set up for the implementation of the Right to Education Act. His contributions in the areas

of culture and moral philosophy, have been significant, particularly in contributing to the understanding of issues relating to our tribal cultures. He is the author of several books and numerous papers in professional journals. We are indeed privileged and honoured to welcome you, Sir, as Chief Guest at this Convocation.

We extend a warm welcome to our respected Chancellor Dr. CH Hanumantha Rao, former member of the Planning Commission and member of the National Advisory Council, GoI. Dr. Rao earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Delhi, and also worked in the Department of Economics, University of Chicago during 1966-67. He was the president of Indian Economic Association, 2009-10 and is Honorary Professor at the Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi and the Centre for Economic Social Studies at Hyderabad. Dr. Rao was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2004 for his contribution in the fields of Literature and Education.

In this Convocation a total of 1452 students will receive their degrees and of these 124 are Ph.Ds. This brings the total number of Ph.Ds produced at the UoH to nearly 1990, and the number of graduating students since the time of its inception to over 23000. Before I present my report, I warmly congratulate all the graduates who are receiving their degrees today. My hearty congratulations

are also to the medal winners. I hope that for all of you, this is merely the beginning of more laurels and achievements, and as you leave the University to begin the rest of your life, there is no better advice to remember than that of Polonius, *This above all: to thine own self be true. And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to anyone.*

Ladies and gentlemen, the University is now 40 years young and is regarded as one of the major Universities in India in the area of higher education, achieving honours and attaining standards that set a benchmark for other universities in India. Our faculty strength is more than 400 and that of students is above 5000. The faculty have written over 1,250 books and more than 15,000 papers. We are also pleased to share the news that we have been granted 16 patents. All these have helped us achieve an eminent position of Excellence within the Central University system of our country as indeed on the academic landscape of the nation. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has reaccredited our University with an 'A' grade and CGPA of 3.72 out of 4:00 which is the highest in the third cycle of reaccreditation for any institution in the country.

Nevertheless we are very conscious that the UoH is, to use a contemporary metaphor, is perpetually “under construction”. It is a work in progress, needing constant attention, and it needs minds that are open to new possibilities and new challenges. Many ideas are needed to fully realize the potential that the University has and must have, the destiny that we need to fulfill has to be fashioned by us each day, not just to see the opportunities that may arise, but also to see the responsibilities that we have. As an institution of higher education and learning, the model that I would like to see our University evolve is to have strong democratic principles to stand as fortification, as a bulwark against the forces that constantly erode our functioning, and to have sound scholarship that will provide our nation a good foundation for development.

To that end, our faculty have been associated with several important national and international bodies, held Professorships of distinction, both in India and abroad, and participated in the global educational arena with as much vigour as we have always done. Furthermore, they have been funded quite handsomely receiving grants from national and international funding agencies like UGC, MHRD, DBT, DST, EU, DoE, IUSSTF and so on. The University’s current extramural R&D funding is about

Rs. 200 crores, and in the past two years the University has received close to Rs. 50 crores.

In its twelve Schools of study at present the University offers postgraduate and research programmes in several areas of the Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Arts, Management, Medical Sciences, Engineering, Mathematics and Statistics; and Computer and Information Sciences. There are also a large number of students under the Centre for Distance and Virtual Learning Programme through 17 PG Diploma courses. A crucial and significant new addition to the University in coming years will be the School of Education that has been granted by the UGC. I hope that with the addition of this important discipline, we will be able to make progress in a crucial dimension, the intersection of instruction with technology. We need to be able to reach out to larger and larger numbers of our fellow citizens and thereby fulfill the responsibility that we all share, namely of educating the bulk of the country to create a modern state.

The Academic Staff College at the University is one of the finest of such Staff Colleges established by the UGC. It has so far conducted more than 80 Orientation Courses, more than 200 Refresher Courses for the benefit of more than 10,000 teachers from the colleges

and universities all over the country. The University now has a Kendriya Vidyalaya for the benefit of its staff, and is also presently running a pre-primary (LKG and UKG) on the campus for the benefit of employees' children as well as for those from the neighbourhood.

Our annual student enrolment has grown steadily, now over 5,000 in regular courses. Entrance examinations for selection of students are conducted in 34 centres all over the country. The Library at the University has done very well and has a collection of over 4-lakh books and other reference material, and it subscribes to about 5000 e-books, more than 30000 electronic journals, 550 print journals and 49 online databases (includes UGC infonet digital library consortium). It is fully automated with special software for the visually challenged students. This Independence Day we have inaugurated a special computer laboratory that has been sponsored by MIDHANI under the Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, for the use of visually challenged students that has computers and software.

The UoH has always been a very special University in the way in which it was functioning, in the way it has grown and we aim to keep it a very special University in the way that it will grow. I am happy to inform you that for the second successive year, the Convocation ceremony

is being shared across the world on the internet. More than this, we have already shared many of our special lectures with the rest of the country through the National Knowledge Network- we believe that any efforts we can make to reach a wider audience are well worth it. Our commitment to the goal of fashioning a unique and excellent research University is as strong as ever and although the turbulent economic and political climate makes this a very challenging goal, we are convinced more than ever that a University such as ours is very necessary.

The UoH fraternity has an important role to play in the process of educating and enabling our citizens. The sense of liberation that comes when our students are truly educated and enabled is something that many have discovered, sometimes only in retrospect. Nevertheless it is true that the UoH provides the opportunity for all of us- students as well as staff- to soar as high as we want. But more than that, having an environment like this, the opportunities here make it necessary to keep a sense of responsibility in mind. Centuries ago, Marcus Aurelius told us: *The mind of the universe – its intelligence- is social. And again, That which is not good for the swarm, neither is it good for the bee.* We need to invest in this notion: the well being of society is paramount, and it needs us to both put aside the individual in preference

to society, and to also see that it is our responsibility to do so. Some days ago I touched upon the idea of a measurable index through which we can see how we serve society, by having a University Social Responsibility similar to the Corporate Social Responsibility. I believe that it is necessary for the University to also have well-defined social goals that can only be reached by the collective work of a body such as ours, where research, teaching and scholarship are valued, nurtured and encouraged. I believe that this is a fundamental way in which a university can contribute to the overall good of the society in which we are embedded, the society out of which we grew, and the society we were destined to serve.

Thank you all!

Jai Hind!