



مولانا آزاؑ نیشنل اردو یونیورسٹی

مولانا آزاؑ نیشنل اردو یونیورسٹی

MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY

(A Central University established by an Act of Parliament in 1998)

WELCOME ADDRESS

By

Prof. A.M. PATHAN

Vice-Chancellor

at the

THIRD CONVOCATION

Held at 21 February, 2009

**Welcome Speech of
Prof. A.M. Pathan
Vice Chancellor
Maulana Azad National Urdu University**

**At the Third Convocation of the University
21st February 2009 at 10.30 a.m.
Convention Centre - Hotel Marriott, Hyderabad**

Dr. Syeda Saiyidain Hameed, Member, Planning Commission of India and Hon'ble Chancellor of the University, Padmashree Prof. Sukhdeo Thorat, Chairman, University grants Commission and Chief Guest at the Convocation, Padma Bhushan Prof. Gopi Chand Narang, Padma Bhushan Janab Dr. Abid Hussain, Janab Yousuf Khan and Padma Shri Mohtrema Jeelani Bano, recipients of the Degree of Doctor of Literature (Honoris Causa), members of the Executive and Academic Council, honoured guests, special invitees, my teaching and non-teaching colleagues of the University, guests, students and parents.

It is indeed a rare honour and privilege for me to address such an august gathering at the occasion of the third Convocation of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University being held at Hyderabad today. The University conducted its first Convocation in August 2005 wherein nearly four thousand graduates were admitted for various degrees under the Faculties of Arts, Social Sciences and Sciences of this University in subjects of modern thought, relevance and higher education in the Urdu language - a feat that was replicated after nearly eight decades when the graduates of the Osmania University passed out first in 1921 till 1948. The Second Convocation was held in June 2007 wherein nearly 3500 students were conferred undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. Today, at the 3rd Convocation, 5706 students, of

both the distance and campus modes of education, are being given undergraduate and post graduate degrees by the University apart from awarding 12 gold medals at the Undergraduate level and 30 at the Postgraduate level.

Before presenting a report of the activities of the University before you, I would like to introduce and present the honoured guests and recipients of the degree of Honoris Causa before this august gathering.

Dr. Syeda Saiyidain Hameed, Member, Planning Commission of India and Hon'ble Chancellor of the University is a prolific writer with many books in English, Urdu and Hindi to her credit on women issues, Maulana Azad, Education and Islam. She is the founder member and trustee of many institutions active in the field of Literacy for Muslim women, peoples contact in the South Asian region on a sustained basis to bring about a climate of peace in the region through dialogue and human rights issues in the South Asian Region. She has served as member of National Commission on Women, Government of India and was academically associated with the ICCR and the Nehru Memorial Museum and library.

A member of various scholarly and important bodies, she has taught both in Canada and India at the University of Alberta and lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi respectively and has served as Executive Assistant to Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower Govt. of Alberta, Canada and Director of Colleges and Universities, Govt. of Alberta, Canada. Prof. Thorat, Chairman, UGC is a distinguished academician and heads the country's premier higher education management body. He did B.A from Aurangabad (Maharashtra), M.A. in Economics from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad Maharashtra, and M.Phil/Ph.D in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Diploma in Economic Planning, Main School of Planning Warsaw, Poland. The University of Kalyani, Kalyani (W.B.), Avinashilingam

University for Women, Coimbatore (T.N.), Fakir Mohan University, Balasore (Orissa) and Gulbarga University, Gulbarga (Karnataka) have honoured him by conferring D.Litt.

He is a scholar on international repute in the fields Agricultural Development, Rural Poverty, Institution and Economic Growth, Problems of Marginalized Groups, Economics of Caste System, Caste Discrimination and Poverty, Human Development, and Human Rights Issue. Prof Thorat has been Member of several bodies like CAPART, Social justice Division of Planning Commission and in the governing bodies of many more Universities and Institutions. He was awarded Dr Ambedkar Chetna Award by Manwatawadi Rachana Manch Jallunder, Punjab.

Prior to being appointed as Chairman UGC, Prof. Thorat was Director, Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, New Delhi and Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has served as faculty at various Universities both within and outside the country and was Visiting Faculty at Department of Economics, Iowa State University, AMES, USA and Research Associate of International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington DC. He has more than 20 books and 81 scholarly articles to his credit apart from guiding many Ph.D's

Prof. Narang, Professor Emeritus, University of Delhi and former President, Sahitya Akademi and recipient of the national honour of Padma Bhushan is a widely and well known scholar and lover of Urdu world-wide and is a colossus in the field of Urdu for over five decades now. Beginning his academic career as lecturer in St. Stephens College, Delhi, in 1957, Prof. Narang has taught at various Universities both within and outside the country. He has been visiting Professor at the Universities of Oslo, Minnesota and Wisconsin and has been the Head of the Department of Urdu both at the Jamia Millia Islamia and Delhi Universities. A member of a number of national and international learned bodies and societies, Prof. Narang has to his credit more than 64 books including twelve in English, seven in Hindi

and forty five in Urdu besides hundreds of scholarly articles and has guided scores of Ph.D's.

He is a recipient of Padma Bhushan (2004)'Padma Shri' (1991), D.Litt. Degree Honoris Causa' by the Central University of Hyderabad, (2007) Indira Gandhi Memorial Fellowship, Indira Gandhi National Centre of Arts, (2002-2004) , Mazzini Gold Medal by the Government of Italy, (2005) , Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship for Residency at Bellagio Study Centre, Italy, (1997) , Rajiv Gandhi Award for Excellence in Secularism, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (Kanpur Chapter) 1994 and the Sahitya Akademi Award for work on literary theory and Indian poetics in 1995 apart from numerous other distinctions.

Dr. Abid Hussain is currently a Member of the International Panel on Democracy and Development of UNESCO and Professor Emeritus at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) as well as Professor Emeritus at the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. He is a member of the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco and B.P. Koirala Foundation, Kathmandu. He is the Trustee of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts Trust; President of Katha, Chairman of Research Council of National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (CSIR); India-China Economic & Cultural Council; Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Gautam Buddha Nagar (NOIDA) Kendra and several other educational and cultural organizations. He is a member of the Nehru Memorial Fund; the Population Foundation of India; Foundation for Academic Excellence & Access; Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad; Shankar Lall Murli Dhar Memorial Society and the Governing council of Ranbaxy Science Foundation.

He has been a member of the Indian Administrative Service and served in various capacities at the Centre. He was Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries, Commerce Secretary, Government of India and Chairman, IIFT. He became Member, Planning Commission in 1985. Later on, he became India's Ambassador to the United States of

America. In the year 1988, he was honoured with PADMA BHUSHAN for meritorious services. Thereafter, he became Vice Chairman, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, New Delhi, and was also the Chancellor of Central University, Hyderabad. He is at present the Chancellor of the Rai University at Raipur (Chhatisgarh).

Dr. Hussain was for nine years Special Rapporteur to UN on Freedom of Opinion and Expression. Hussain was a member of the Constitution Review Commission set up by Government of India. He was a member of the Prasar Bharti Board till April 2001. Till recently Dr. Hussain was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, New York. He is now the member of Asia Society, New York. During his long standing career he was UN Adviser to Turkey on Community Development for two years and also Chief of Industrial, Technology, Human Settlements and Environment in the UN Regional Commission of ESCAP, Bangkok for seven years. Dr. Hussain has presided over several national and international Conferences and contributed papers on contemporary issues.

Dr. Hussain had chaired six important committees set up by the Government of India, namely, Trade Policy Reforms; Project Exports; CSIR Review Committee for Development of Science and Technology; Textile Policy of the Government of India; Development of Capital Market; and Abid Hussain Committee on Small Scale Industries.

Janab Yousuf Khan popularly known and Dilip Kumar to millions of fans throughout the world is a former Member of Parliament and a legend of Indian Films for over six decades and has acted in 61 films from Jwar Bhata in 1944 to Saudagar in 1991 and Qila in 1998. It would not be incorrect to say that he, single handedly, has been responsible for producing the impact and showcasing Urdu in its most beautiful, lyrical and powerful forms to millions of people worldwide.

His performances have been regarded as the epitome of

emoting in Indian Cinema which has earned him the name of tragedy king. He was the first actor to receive a Filmfare Best Actor Award and holds the record for most number of Filmfare Awards won for that category. Though he has done all kinds of films - he balanced a wide variety of roles such as the intense Andaz (1949) with the swashbuckling Aan (1952), the dramatic Devdas (1955) with the comical Azaad (1955) and the historical romance Mughal E Azam (1960) with the social Ganga Jamuna (1961).

Dilip Kumar has received many awards throughout his career (a career spanning over more than 50 years with his last film, Qila, releasing in 1998. The awards include 8 Filmfare Best Actor awards and 19 nominations in all for the same. He has also been honored Filmfare Lifetime Achievement award in 1992. The Government of India in 1994, honored him with the Dada Saheb Phalke award -- the highest award for cinematic excellence in India. This underlines his vast contribution to Indian Cinema. In 1980, he was appointed Sheriff of Mumbai, an honorary position. In 1997, he was awarded, Nishan-e-Pakistan, Pakistan's highest civilian award. He received NTR National Award for the year 1997. He was also awarded CNN-IBN Indian of the year - Lifetime achievement award in 2009.

Padma Shri Mohtrema Jeelani Bano who started her literary career as a fiction writer in 1954, is one of the foremost Urdu writers today. She has published around 16 collections of short stories, novels, novelettes, translations from other Indian languages and also books for children.

A prolific writer, she has written short stories, novels, radio-plays, screenplays, stage plays, essays and children's stories. She deals with social and cultural oppression, bonded labour, poetry, powerlessness, the stress of urban life, and the suffering of women. Her stories looking as simple narratives carry deeper meanings and undercurrents of emotions. Mohtrema Bano is modern and current in her stories and articulate in depicting the ongoing social and political

conditions. Her stories are based on the eventful history of the subcontinent where rulers were ruthless in dealing with the masses. Her publications include the much loved classics like Sookhi raite (2003) Baat Phoolon ki (2001) Paraya Ghar (1979) and Roze ka qissa (1987). Her short stories have been translated into many Indian and foreign languages. She has recorded, on 13 audio cassettes, Dakani Urdu, as spoken by a cross-section of people, belonging to different age-groups, classes, professions in and around the city of Hyderabad Awarded the Padma Shri in 2001, Mohtrema Bano is Principal Advisor, Child & Women Human Rights, International Human Rights Association (India). She is the recipient of numerous honours like the Ghalib Award , Dosheeza Award (Pakistan), Soviet Land Nehru Award (Moscow), Maharashtra Urdu Academy Award, All India Aumi Hali Award, Alam-e-Urdu Faroghi Award (Qatar) among others.

I would now like to introduce this 11 year old national institution and its activities to you. The Maulana Azad Nation Urdu University has been established in 1998 as a Central University with an all India jurisdiction and with the mandate to promote and develop the Urdu language, provide higher, technical and vocational education in the Urdu medium and to provide focus on women's education. The University has been empowered to offer courses through both the campus and distance modes of education The Government of Andhra Pradesh have allotted 200 acres of land in the picturesque area of Gachibowli, Hyderabad for the establishment of the University campus.

The very name and idea of the University suggests that the Government recognizes and places special emphasis on Urdu as a national language. It is a language of the masses, spoken like a lingua franca throughout the country. It is a purely Indic language, tracing its roots to hindavi and Hindustani; it is a language that is glimpsed in Kabir's dohas and Amir Khusro's poetry.

Today, even a cursory look at the Urdu milieu discloses the fact that it is largely made up of economically weak and socially disadvantaged citizens and that the language is spoken in nearly every state of the country and enjoys wide social and cultural use and acceptability. However, the Urdu speakers are not institutionally integrated into the system. Over time, the Urdu speakers have been relegated to the educational and social backwaters a fact that has been empirically proved by the findings of the Sachar Committee Report. A strong element of dis-engagement of the Urdu speaking masses with the mainstream over the last few decades is clearly seen as is the fact that the language that once was the medium of instruction for technical and professional courses, for Arts, Commerce and Humanities has now become a barrier to pursue higher education.

Thus the basic idea for this University is to convert this barrier into a bridge by offering modern, higher and technical education in the Urdu medium. This idea is echoed in the UGC's XI Plan that stresses on access and equity as the philosophical cornerstones defining India's Higher Education management and growth and is also a significant effort in raising the Gross Enrolment Rate by 15% - 20% by 2015.

This idea is reinforced by the main findings of the Sachar Committee which has identified lack of access to quality education as one of the main factors which need immediate correction to ameliorate the present abysmally low status of educational attainment of the minorities of whom a large segment is made up by the Urdu speakers.

The University has found ready implementation of this in distance education by registering an enrolment of nearly twelve thousand students during the academic year 2007-08 in undergraduate and post graduate courses, which brings the total number of students on rolls today in distance education to nearly 1.57 lakhs with about 65,000 in active enrolment. The number of study centres too has increased from 119 to 141 spread throughout the

country. An examination centre has been established at Jeddah with more being in the process at Qatar, London, and some cities of the US. This is to reach out to the significant expatriate population of Urdu speakers in those regions.

As a concomitant process, the University has established a Regional Centre at Ranchi and sub Regional centers at Lucknow, Hyderabad, Sambal, Mewat and Jammu, apart from the existing Regional Centres at Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkatta, Patna, Darbhanga and Srinagar to offer a wider and more responsive student support network in the country.

The University has also made progress in the front of campus education by the establishment of six Schools of Studies namely School of Education and Training, School of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Commerce and Business Management, School of Mass Communication and Journalism, School of Sciences and School of Languages, Linguistics and Indology and the Directorates of Distance Education and Women's Education and thirteen post-graduate departments. These Schools have started offering post-graduate Master's courses including Masters in Education (M.Ed.), Bachelor in Education (B.Ed.), Diploma in Education (D.Ed.), MBA, Journalism and Communication, M.A. in Arabic, English, Hindi, Urdu, Translation and Women studies. Focusing specially on teacher training and education, the University has established Teachers Training Colleges at Srinagar, Bhopal, Darbhanga and Hyderabad offering B. Ed programmes in Urdu Medium.

The University functions with the philosophy that its endeavour is to provide academic strength, modern education and as wide an intellectual exposure as possible to the Urdu speakers. Keeping this in mind as the guiding principles, translated into empowerment of the Urdu speakers, it has initiated several Development Schemes granted under the UGC XI Plan. These include providing Coaching for Minority Students for the National Eligibility

Test with the establishment of the UGC-NET Coaching Centre, providing opportunity for Urdu speakers to better their English proficiency, subject understanding and competitive edge by the establishment of the Remedial Coaching Centre, fostering a spirit of competition by the establishment of the Centre for Coaching of Minority Candidates for Entry into Government Service and also an Academy for Professional Development of Urdu Teachers to work in the area of promoting skill development, training, inculcating best instructional practices, fostering research in school education and working towards adding competence, motivation and empowerment of primary and high school Urdu teachers. A feather in the cap for the University has been the establishment of the prestigious Academic Staff College, the 57th such College to be established in the Country. Another notable addition has been the establishment of the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy at the University which is a prestigious achievement for this young institution. Keeping in mind the importance of applying modern Information and Communication Technology to disseminate and propagate its academic endeavors, the University has also established an Instructional Media Centre to produce academic programmes which are being transmitted on the DoorDarshan Urdu Channel from February 2008. The same are also being transmitted on AIR from March this year.

Further, the Sachar Report presents a unique opportunity and challenge to this University. Among the main findings are the facts that by and large the Muslims rank somewhat above SC/ ST's but below the Hindu OBC's, other Minorities and Hindu population (upper castes) in almost all indicators considered of education, poverty, social standing, access to resources, employment, representation in Government etc. Poverty, low perceived returns from Education, poor access to schools, non-modernization of madarsas, and low level of women's education are the main issues plaguing educational development due to which the literacy rates for the Muslim Community

are at 59% (2001) below the national average of 65%.

These issues have to be addressed in a comprehensive and institutionally sustained manner. The Ministry of Human Resource Development and the University Grants Commission have to be commended for their tireless efforts and continuous support to the University by helping it to implement various schemes towards addressing the issues above.

The artisan class among the Urdu speakers has suffered considerably due to the forces of economic restructuring that have swept over the country, more so in the last decade. The traditional crafts have been replaced by machine-made low cost products and disempowered a whole section of the people. Realizing this potential in the people, the University has established Polytechnics at Hyderabad (offering training in the trades of electronics, Air conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics, Plumbing, Electrician and Civil draughtsman), Bangalore and Darbhanga (offering training in the trades of electronics, Air conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics) to impart vocational education in various skills and trades. This is in keeping with the University Act and the recommendations of the Report which has highlighted this point as one that will be an effective strategy to combat abysmal levels of economic development.

Apart from higher education through campus and distance modes and the establishment of Polytechnics, the University has also made progress in the field of School education with the establishment of Urdu Medium Model Schools at Hyderabad (from 1st to 6th class) Darbhanga and Nuh (1st to 5th class), which have been established on the CBSE pattern. A Model School will be made functional from this academic year at Aurangabad where the University has received a generous grant of 5 acres of land from Mohtrema Fouziya Tahseen Khan, MLC, Govt. of Maharashtra.

Sanction has been accorded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and funding from the UGC for the

establishment of a Centre for Persian, Arabic and other languages at Lucknow which will initiate its activities from this academic year. The campus is envisaged as an important feeder channel to attract madrasah students to modern higher education by offering undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Arabic, Persian, Urdu and English. An All India Services Coaching Centre for Minorities too is contemplated at the University as a full time institution with state of the art classrooms, library, hostels and expert faculty to be invited from throughout the country to coach deserving and promising candidates to successfully enter the premier services. The University campus too is in a very active phase of growth with the completion of the buildings of the Directorate of Distance Education, the Lecture Hall, staff quarters, boys' hostel, Girls Hostel, Instructional Media Centre and Urdu Cultural Centre.

In conclusion I would like to state that MANUU is in the active process of marching ahead with confidence in fulfilling its onerous mission and mandate in a sustained and fulfilling manner. This journey would not have been possible but for the support and interest of the MHRD and the UGC and the active participation and progressive spirit of Urdu lovers and speakers. I would like to take this opportunity of placing the University's acknowledgement to its stakeholders for the love and support shown and am confident that the same will be doubled in the years to come and the University will achieve greater glory and laurels in its road to further progress and development.

Thank you.
