

SEVENTH
CONVOCATION
2018

CONVOCATION ADDRESS

BY

Dr. S. Y. Quraishi, IAS (Retd)
Former Chief Election Commissioner
Govt. of India

مولانا آزاد نیشنل اردو یونیورسٹی
Maulana Azad National Urdu University



A Central University Established by an Act of Parliament in 1998
Accredited as "A" grade by NAAC
Gachibowli, Hyderabad 500 032, TS

Maulana Azad National Urdu University
7th Convocation Address
by the Chief Guest
Dr S.Y. Quraishi,
Former Chief Election Commissioner of India

Prof. G. Gopal Reddy, Hon'ble Member, University Grants Commission (UGC), Dr. Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz, Vice Chancellor MANUU, Professor Shakeel Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor MANUU, Dr M.A. Sikandar, Registrar MANUU, Deans of the Schools of Studies MANUU, Members, Court, Executive and Academic Councils MANUU, Teaching Faculty and Non-teaching Staff of MANUU and above all the successful Graduates of MANUU and your proud parents.

Good afternoon everyone!

Heartiest congratulations...

to the students for graduating in their programmes and courses,
to the teachers for teaching and guidance,
to the administrators for facilitating the teaching and learning process
and to the parents for becoming stakeholders in the educational advancement of the nation.

My experience and observation about Maulana Azad National Urdu University has convinced me that it is fast becoming a convergent point of educational, social, cultural, and national activities in our country. It is a matter of pride that in a short span of 20 years MANUU has risen to the great educational heights, now boasting of 7 schools of studies, which run 24 departments and which in turn offer 84 programmes and courses, ranging from certificate to doctoral research.

The level of education from grade 1 in schools to the doctoral in school of studies makes it a complete package of knowledge on offer to the Urdu knowing populace all over the nation. Undoubtedly, the

expansion of the University in terms of educational programmes and courses is phenomenal.

I congratulate not only the University visionaries, including the present Vice Chancellor, but every person who showed fixity of purpose in establishing this University as a Quality Institution of Higher Studies in the country.

I am sure the great man after whom this University has been named would have been more than gratified to see the state of MANUU and its path of progress today.

The objectives of the University which include promotion and development of the Urdu language, imparting technical and scientific education in Urdu, and providing focus on women's education, are getting visibly realised through MANUU's offering of educational programmes in Urdu, and the intake of a large number of girls in these programmes.

This 7th Convocation of MANUU is a fitting display of what MANUU has achieved and what it is capable of.

As an educational visionary of free India, what Maulana Azad did, is as brightly visible as the sun. I feel the achievements and progress of MANUU are a fitting tribute to the education policies of Maulana Azad.

In one of his speeches, the Maulana said, 'I need hardly say that all our educational programme will ultimately depend upon the proper education of women. If women take to education, more than half of our problems will be solved ('Speech on Social Education', Speeches of Maulana Azad, 1947-1958).

I see MANUU is putting into application the above observation of Maulana and I witness that it is on course to truly empower women through its educational programmes and provisions to accommodate them in every programme at every level.

Dear Graduates,

It may serve well to advise you today that whatever discipline or

level in which you have graduated, whether doctoral or masters, your duty is to serve that discipline and maintain the sanctity of your level in service of your country and humanity.

Friends, the acquisition of education just for the degree is not only a waste of time and resources, but also harmful to all involved. Maulana had lamented this fact way back in time when he spoke about this in relation to agricultural education. He said, 'Most of our universities have some provision for agricultural education, but the education is mainly theoretical, so that the results we could expect from the application of science to agriculture do not materialise. Our agricultural graduates are fit for almost everything except becoming agriculturists themselves. ('Agriculture and Education', Speeches of Maulana Azad, 1947-1958 p. 173).

In 1954 Maulana had observed about the reforms in education in the words. 'I think you will all agree that reform has become urgent in two spheres of education in India. The first is the field of university education and the other of school education.' Down to this day one can realise how what Maulana had said is still relevant. Undoubtedly, when I looked at the general scenario the situation has improved a lot, but there is a lot left to do.

However, I am happy to note that MANUU has developed a lot, and made catalytic progress in terms of providing education from school to higher education levels, to the people with Urdu background with lots of attention given to women education.

MANUU's progress is quite remarkable in science and technical education as well. Providing engineering and science education in Urdu is itself a contribution worth exhibiting.

The evolution of MANUU as a national university in terms of its students hailing from all corners of India to seek education of their desire is also quite laudable, and MANUU justifies the word 'national' in its nomenclature.

I feel the intellectual development of students of MANUU is due

to the stupendous concern that the Vice Chancellor shows towards the academic welfare of the students. MANUU has been accommodating all ideas which lead to the intellectual, social and cultural developments of its students and scholars.

Dear Graduates,

After receiving the degrees today and becoming the proud educated citizens of India, it is your duty to help, provide and create the same opportunity for your friends, acquaintances and all those who are struck or stuck somewhere else because of poverty, lack of facility and want of guidance.

This is the least you can pay back to your nation which has invested in you not only its wealth and resources but also because of the system it developed, that you became its intellectual beneficiary.

All the graduates of MANUU today must feel fortunate and thankful that they are the recipient of special attention of the country, as it provided a chance to them to acquire knowledge in Urdu. And in return they must reflect how they can pay back to their university and their country.

One suggestion that I have is that, with the completion of your programme, you have become the alumni of the University and I feel alumni can do a lot to raise University's sphere of activities in academics and research. Alumni association or cell is an effective means through which you can contribute to your University, financially and intellectually. Your services from shouldering the responsibility of sponsoring some poor students to providing them intellectual strength are all someways available to you to make your contribution.

I need not talk much about the importance of scientific and technological education and its acquisition today, as present life has made the discussion on it redundant. It is accepted as obligatory. However, the students of MANUU must concentrate on how science and technology can be used for benign purposes and what fields of

science and technology help progress humanity in the sphere of compassion and clemency.

Maulana Azad in one of his articles in Al-Hilaal said, ‘Treat the patient not the healthy’. How true! Don’t you think that all the development in science and technology is taking place for the treatment of the healthy, in other words wealthy? For example, take the instance of advancement of medical sciences. Who are the beneficiaries of the advancement in this science? You and I know full well, that it is the financially healthy. Can you call it technological development, if it is not accessible to the poor and the deprived? The measure of advancement of any country, in any field should be on the basis of, not how it treats its wealthy, but how it treats its poor.

I invite you to think about this. What is it that you can do in this regard. I am fully aware of the fact that the foremost concern on your mind is finding a suitable work placement for yourself before you could think about contributing something to your university and the country. I would like to remind you that the goals that the pass-outs and the graduates set for themselves make them forget what they owe to their university and nation.

I would like to conclude by again congratulating the graduates today and MANUU for inviting me as Chief Guest and allowing me to share my thoughts with the successful graduates.

.....*Jai Hind!*