



مولانا آزاد نیشنل اردو یونیورسٹی  
MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY  
Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 32

## CONVOCATION ADDRESS

by

Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju

Honourable Minister of Human Resource Development  
Government of India

# 5<sup>th</sup> CONVOCATION

24<sup>th</sup> August 2013  
Maulana Azad National Urdu University  
Hyderabad



2013

# **Convocation Address**

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**Dr Pallam Raju**

**Honourable Minister of Human Resource  
Development, Government of India**

**at the Fifth Convocation of  
Maulana Azad National Urdu University  
on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

**at Global Peace Auditorium,  
Gachibowli, Hyderabad**

Dr Syeda Saiyidain Hameed, Honourable Chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Professor Mohammad Miyan, Vice Chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Justice Rajinder Sachar and Janab Amir Hussain Khan recipient of Honoris Causa, Members of Executive and Academic Council, distinguished Guests, the recipients of earned Doctorates, all Graduating Students, Gold Medalists, and their proud parents.

I feel happy to deliver the Fifth Convocation Address of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) in the presence of such a learned and nation-building scholarship. MANUU's educational strides in a span of fifteen years, I note with great pleasure, have been impressive. When I saw the infrastructure and ecologically-conscious environment of MANUU during my visit to the campus to lay the foundation of the HK Centre for Deccan Studies, I must admit that it had been an enchanting experience for me.

I think development in education (or any field for that matter) owes to two value-laden attitudes, and they are 'trust' and 'sincerity'. From the point of view of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), in order to carry out any of its educational ventures, it needs to trust few people (who can achieve this) and in response, it expects sincerity of commitment from them. Then the development itself becomes a 'matter of decision', not a 'process'. Witnessing, the massive academic output, infrastructure, educational programmes of study on offer, and apparent emphasis on science and technology courses made me realize that the cudgels of MANUU from its inception have been in the right hands. And if ever MANUU slackens in its mission, I am sure, the present

leadership has proved that it can revitalize, renew and reenergize MANUU's mandate and mission of educating minorities and empowering women.

I believe that the Universities must provide lifelong learning opportunities to all the citizens of the country, irrespective of their caste, religion, gender, age, and economic and societal constraints. This shall address the task of access and equity in education. But, the issue of quality in education must be central to every University's scheme of things.

A successful university is that which bases its teaching and learning on its own research. The programmes of study that a university offers must be based on the needs in the real world. I suggest that every university must carry out research, as to the need, employability opportunities, time-span of demand of such course or programme in market, etc. and have prepared feasibility reports before offering any programme or course of study.

I know that MANUU has started offering courses in engineering, technology, management etc. I want it to offer courses in architecture, town planning, pharmacy, applied arts & crafts, hotel management and catering technology as well, so that it can become a true comprehensive university.

India needs skilled manpower, and if that manpower comes from a university like MANUU which imparts education in Urdu, then it helps build a culturally and linguistically advance nation which is conscious of all sensitivities even in its drive to accomplish absolute progress and complete prosperity.

Offering programmes in emerging and newest technologies is undoubtedly a very popular and advanced way of bringing

reputation to the university. Yet, the university can work in providing alternative technologies or develop technologies which can strengthen its status as an efficient and self-reliant institution.

My advice to MANUU is to prepare an academic research agenda, and have priorities set. Urdu is undoubtedly a beautiful language and poetic to its core, nevertheless, for its spread, it needs to have science and technology as its base. For this, I am sure, MANUU is doing all it can under the leadership of Professor Mohammad Miyan.

MANUU should not remain a university with a linguistic minority label. It should develop strategies to become a comprehensive university. A university where academic, scientific, cultural, and artistic exchanges must become the source of its teaching and research. Intellectual pursuits must be the vein of its campus life.

The ethos of modern Indian Education System, I believe lies in embracing diverse, innovative and engaging research programmes. The diversification in education in terms of variety in academics, effective professional pursuits, amplification of science and technology based programmes, linguistic protection of knowledge, protection and expansion of regional languages, nourishing of regional languages which are threatened, revival of extinct languages etc. are achieved through Higher Education sector in our Country. As of now, our Higher Education Sector is spread over 42 Central universities, 243 State universities, 53 State Private universities, 130 Deemed universities, 33 Institutions of National Importance (established under Acts of Parliament) and five Institutions (established under various State

legislations). The number of colleges has also registered manifold increase with just 578 in 1950 growing to be more than 30,000 in 2011 (MHRD, website).

India has the third largest higher education system in the world next to USA and China. However somewhere else our universities are lagging behind to most of the European and East Asian Universities, despite the extension of all help from the Government. The problem seems to be lack of meaningful and substantive research activity. It is not grounded in social concerns. The quality of teaching does not foster curiosity and critical thinking. The compromise to mediocrity for expediency hinders our higher education system to nurture excellence. What we require is commitment to imparting of quality education and expert pursuit of fruitful research. It is the duty of a university teacher to impart knowledge, create understanding, nurture research and celebrate the result. This is possible only when the university teachers don the role of sincere guides. The role of a teacher has become questionable in today's world because of the easy accessibility of information to one and all, thanks to the Internet. Then how a university teacher can justify his/her presence or indispensability? I think, they can become educational guides, who can think out of the box and who may offer new insights to the issues, problems and perspectives. More than anything, today, I feel if a university teacher does not inspire his/her student into doing something meaningful, then he/she is redundant and a liability to the university. It is really appreciable if a teacher completes his/her syllabus in time, and keeps enhancing his/her academic profile etc. But it is great, if a teacher motivates

students to do research which offers solutions and cures to the issues and diseases prevalent in the society.

A great academician and scholar once received a script for reviewing. He wrote to the author, 'Sir, your script is both original and good. But the part which is good is not original, and the part which is original is not good.' This surely sums up our scholarship today. I feel above all a university must teach its scholars first and foremost, the importance of academic honesty; the importance of originality, the importance of doing that research which is socially, scientifically, and economically contributory in nature.

It is the responsibilities of the teachers of the universities to develop new strategies and new methods of learning. The authentic learning is displayed in the output of the university in terms of its research. It is not enough just to eradicate illiteracy and promote literacy, but also to find ways to generate effective literacy. And what I mean by effective literacy is that knowledge which opens avenues for employability, which fetches honour, and which helps promote harmony and understanding between communities of diverse cultural character. And I strongly believe that this can be achieved at the university level.

Maulana Azad National University could easily become a Research University. It is in the hands of its faculty. I wish this University also make special efforts in attracting persons with disabilities to higher education.

As such Muslims' gross ratio in higher education is the lowest comparing to all the other socio-religious groups in higher education in India. This University can do well by attracting and raising the higher education level of the community.

It is a reality that the Industry in India is not finding skilled work force, despite the fact that about 6.8 million students are graduating every year (source: MHRD presentation in Planning Commission). It is the responsibility of every university and its affiliated institutions that they turn out graduates with effective skills which are industry driven.

MANUU is named after that person whose vision for education and commitment to literacy of the Nation is beyond doubt matchless. Maulana Azad not only, as the first education minister of Independent India, helped the country establish University Grant Commission, but also turned out to be the architect of higher and technical education. It is absolutely befitting tribute to him if MANUU makes strides in technical education and help Urdu speaking community become effective contributors in Nation building and Nation's advancement in the field of science and technology.

I learnt that the 12th Five Year Plan that MANUU submitted laid heightened focus on the education of science and technology courses, and the slogan it gave to its 12th FYP is 'Urdu for Science and Science for Urdu.' If MANUU strives in this direction, I assure it all help from my Ministry.

Finally, I congratulate all the graduating students today and exhort them to realize their responsibilities in terms of spreading knowledge, understanding, and more than most of making an honest and selfless living. I also congratulate the teachers, staff of MANUU and last but not the least the parents of all graduating students.

**Thank you; all the best.**