



مولانا آزاد نیشنل اردو یونیورسٹی  
Maulana Azad National Urdu University

## CONVOCATION ADDRESS

by

**Shri. Arjun Singh**

*Hon'ble Union Minister for Human Resource Development*

*at the*

**SECOND CONVOCATION**

*Held at 16th June, 2007*

*Address at the Second Convocation of*  
**Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU),**

Hyderabad

**Delivered by**

**Hon'ble SRI ARJUN SINGH**

Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

**on 16th June, 2007**

Prof. Obaid Siddiqui, Hon'ble Chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Prof. A.R. Kidwai, Hon'ble Governor of Haryana, Prof. Samshur Rahman Farqui, Vice-Chairman, NCPUL, Prof. A.M. Pathan, Vice Chancellor, Members of the Executive Council, Academic Council, Faculty & Staff of the University, distinguished guests, parents and my dear students;

It is a matter of pride, happiness and satisfaction to be here among you today on the occasion of the second convocation of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad and to deliver the Convocation address. I am proud of the fact that this institution is a symbol of our inclusive democracy, happy to note its achievements and progress since its establishment in 1998 and share the satisfaction at the successful realization of an idea and dream. I remember this with more personal satisfaction because I have seen the initiation of this idea during my earlier tenure as Minister of Human Resource Development and also because it was an action which was in true spirit of an inclusive democracy, of which we Indians are so legitimately proud of.

It is pertinent to examine the idea and philosophy of an Urdu University in the background of our social developments and in the context of today's global world. Education has to play a socially empowering role, given the social and linguistic diversity of India. Urban and English centric growth is an unviable and exclusive model that would do a disservice to the spirit of India. Recent reports have brought out the social and economic backwardness of Urdu speakers who find their language to be a barrier to modern higher education. I fondly hope that the University would

work towards converting this barrier into a bridge towards social and economic development. This role is best realized when the language is linked to modern education in an innovative and functional way and further linking up at the language to employment. In this context, it may also be noted that some of the biggest and most powerful world markets have well trained strong and technically qualified work forces in non-English languages, be it China, the Far East, Russia, or countries of Eastern Europe. Real growth in India is not possible if it is based on exclusive English-led urban model. The workforce has to draw strength from myriad languages and cultures that contribute to the country as vast and diverse as ours.

Imparting modern education and empowering language universities in Indian languages is the biggest challenge that we face today. It is heartening to note that the Maulana Azad National Urdu University has responded positively to this challenge by diversifying its activities and making a beginning for creation of a strong academic base for education through Urdu. This is evident from the fact that the University, within a decade of its establishment, has made considerable progress in campus as well as distance education, technical and vocational education and school education. It has endeavored to take a holistic approach that seeks to address to the issues that directly affect the growth and development of Urdu speakers in this country.

I am happy to note the progress of the University on these counts and the fact that the University today has over 65,000 students on rolls in its distance education programmes and has a network of over a hundred study centres spread all over the country. Among its many 'firsts', the University can also claim with pride the fact that it has innovatively partnered with IGNOU to offer the B.Ed. programme through distance education in Urdu medium for in-service teachers. This course is a boon for thousands of teachers in Urdu medium schools in the country who now have an avenue to upgrade their teaching methodologies and skills in the Urdu medium in a qualitative and convenient way, an opportunity that was not available hitherto. It is an intervention that aims at adding quality and competence to teaching and learning processes in our Urdu medium schools.

The Government of India has also taken an initiative by deciding to establish Academies for Professional Development of Urdu Teachers at the Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia Millia Islamia and this University. Apart from this, the Government has supported the proposal of MANUU for establishment of Model Urdu Schools, on the lines of Kendriya Vidyalaya. While these steps are directed

to lead to a qualitative improvement in teaching through Urdu medium, a committed effort of this University is towards propagating the Urdu language through the medium of television. The University Grants Commission has allocated Rs. 7 crores for the establishment of the Instructional Media Centre. I think this is a significant measure in propagating Urdu language as well as education through the medium of Urdu.

Another aspect that the University has rightly focused is campus education and research. The establishment of departments offering programmes in Mass Communication and Journalism, Business Management, Women's Studies, Social Work and Information Technology are initiatives with great potential. That all these are taught and examined in the Urdu medium is a matter of great satisfaction, especially in the context that modern education through Urdu medium is a concept that this University has revived after five decades since the times of the Osmania University. The newly established Academic Staff College in the University is also expected to play a critical role in empowering teachers through refresher and orientation programmes. Again the newly established Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive policy will facilitate study of links that languages have with access and availment of opportunities by the people.

It should be our endeavour to see that modern technology is twinned with finest ideas and philosophies of the sub-continent - to see this process of twinning of modern education and Urdu. This process would be enriched by the mind that Urdu builds, the thoughts that this language prompts and the ideas that this mentality creates. It is in inclusivity that the future of world democracies lies and certainly not in controlled, exclusive partnerships.

To my young friends, who are being awarded with various degrees today, I would like to say - you are entering a New World. There are challenges, but also greater opportunities. To succeed in such an environment, you will have to dream and aspire. The future of our great nation is in your hands and depends as the hard work you put. My best wishes to all of you.

Thank you.