

## **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS TO FACULTY**

**6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2009, 4:00 P.M.**

**AT SWATANTRATA BHAVAN**

**BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY**

Dear Prof. B.D. Singh, Rector and all my Dear Colleagues,

I welcome you all to this august gathering. I, in fact, was to meet you as soon as the University re-opened after Summer Vacation for this New Academic Session, but this could not materialise earlier for some reason or the other and the occasion has to be unwillingly pushed to this day.

I extend my best wishes to you all on the beginning of this New Academic Session. The last academic session had been a fruitful and eventful one and the University has been able to accomplish many important tasks, reached many important milestones and set new goals. All of course with the help, cooperation and contribution from you all.

I am happy to convey to you that the Executive Council of the University has approved the up-gradation of IT-BHU as IIT-BHU. Although the upgraded institute will be integrated with the IIT system in the country, yet it will continue to have its linkages with Banaras Hindu University in its academic and administrative governance. I congratulate my colleagues in IT, BHU on this impending change. I am sure that on its up-gradation as IIT, IT-BHU which already has a fairly good standing among the Institutes of Engineering and Technology, will come up the ladder significantly to rub shoulders with the best among the IITs.

The establishment of an Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development has now become a reality with the approval of its creation both by the Academic Council and the Executive Council of this university. Necessary funds for its establishment have also been sanctioned by the UGC. I hope courses may start in this upcoming Institute from the next academic session. Significant developments have also taken place in the matter of the establishment of a UNESCO Chair on Peace Education and Inter Cultural Understanding and I am hopeful that it will also become a reality soon. Again, the erstwhile School of Nursing in the IMS has been upgraded to a College of Nursing to run

courses at the under-graduate and post-graduate levels. Establishment of an Inter-disciplinary School of Life Sciences is also proposed in our University with the support of the Department of Bio-Technology, Government of India. A massive plantation programme at our Rajiv Gandhi South Campus, Barkachha, is being undertaken in collaboration with the Government of U.P. under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) wherein plantation on some 400 acres of land has been planned. Construction of boy's hostels, girl's hostels, quarter for teachers, administrative block, lecture theatre complex and canteen at RGSC, Barkachha, has also been completed. This will facilitate a smooth conduct of teaching in the twenty-five professional courses being conducted there, and accommodating about thousand students studying these courses. Apart from these, a statue of our revered founder Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya ji is also planned there. Efforts are being made to get a special grant of Rupees One hundred (100) crores through the Planning Commission for the overall development of South Campus. For this I have already made a request in person to Hon'ble H.R.D. Minister. The School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi has been engaged to prepare a master plan for development of the campus so that it could be designed and developed aesthetically, beautifully as well as scientifically.

It is indeed heartening to learn that in a recent issue of the Current Science journal (of 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009), BHU has been ranked second among the top 20 universities for research performance. It is a significant achievement by any standards as in 2004, we were at 10<sup>th</sup> place among the top research institutions in the country and in 2008 we jumped to the 6<sup>th</sup> place. In 'India Today's' survey of 2009, IT-BHU has been ranked 8<sup>th</sup>, the Faculty of law 11<sup>th</sup> and the IMS 15<sup>th</sup>. Similarly, 'Outlook' has ranked IT-BHU at 7<sup>th</sup> position. I congratulate you all on these achievements.

In the globalized education scenario we realise the need and importance of collaboration with International institutions along with National Institutions of repute in the field of Education and Research so that we know and understand the best practices followed elsewhere and imbibe them. Also, to promote exchange of faculty and students thereby exchanging available knowledge is also needed. With this end in view we have collaborated with some International Universities and Institutes in various fields of study.

All this is testimony to our's being a vibrant, dynamic and progressive thinking institution of higher learning. Although a lot has been done to promote it , a lot more needs to be done.

In the fast changing global scenario wherein boundaries are shrinking in all areas including education we need to keep pace with these changes and abreast ourselves with the latest in them. Education, specially Higher Education, has become a priority in the various programmes of the Government of India. Emphasis on bringing out a qualitative change in Higher Education in its very first 100 days programme MHRD has shown its commitment to implement the recommendations of Knowledge Commission headed by Sam Pitroda and Report of the Committee to advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education Chaired by Prof. Yash Pal. I aspire for our University taking a lead role in the Implementation of the various recommendations made by the aforesaid commission and committee.

In pursuance to its commitment, the Ministry of HRD has asked the Universities to implement certain academic and administrative reforms in their respective institutions. The UGC also has drawn an action plan for implementing these academic and administrative reforms in the Universities. Implementing these reforms has been made mandatory for the Universities. We can take pride in the fact that our University has already implemented most of the reforms as suggested in the UGC Action Plan like: Admissions to various courses through All India Entrance Examination, recruitment of faculty and others on all India basis, Semester system, revision of syllabus from time to time etc. However, there is still a lot more that is desirable and needs to be done.

The idea of a University as visualized in the Yash Pal Committee Report is - I quote:

**“A university is a place where new ideas germinate, strike roots and grow tall and sturdy. It is a unique space, which covers the entire universe of knowledge. It is a place where creative minds converge, interact with each other and construct visions of new realities, established notions of truth are challenged in the pursuit of knowledge”.**

## Unquote

We need to stand up and make this visualization a reality in Banaras Hindu University. I think we have been able to do it to certain extent and have the capabilities and potentials to achieve the optimum. We have established a tradition of good practices in teaching and learning but there are certain areas that need to be addressed to. It is my desire that the senior faculty guide the younger ones and their students in following these best practices in teaching, learning and research, encourage them to write projects, take up research and make good quality publications. We must identify our strengths and what is relevant in to-day's world and take up teaching and research in these areas. It is also my desire that every faculty member of the University should have atleast one research project under him at any point of time. I request them take up this challenge and I appeal all the Directors, Deans and Head of Departments to provide them the help and guidance that is needed and to ensure that every faculty member has a project under him. Innovative teaching methodologies should be evolved through discussion among senior and junior faculty for better understanding of the students' problems and to make the points clear to them. I invite the senior faculty to lead by example.

In my opinion much emphasis needs to be given to the quality of education imparted and the quality of research conducted for the true development and growth of education. Our University must have its own policy on quality. Efforts are under way to formulate this policy for our University. The presence of a sizeable good faculty and good students is one of the key indicators of quality in an educational institution. The presence of good faculty attracts good students to the institution and presence of good students and facilities encourage the good faculty to join the institution. I would like to assure you that all efforts will be made to provide the better facilities to teachers for teaching and learning and the best possible ways will be devised for their career growth, acquiring knowledge and their overall betterment. I realise that a discontented and dissatisfied faculty or for that matter any employee, cannot give his or her best to the growth of the institution. Hence, their timely promotion is one of the prime responsibilities of this institution, which responsibility I have undertaken recently as a drive. I am also aware of the importance of the availability of desired strength of faculty to maintain the standards and quality of teaching. For this we have advertised 437 positions at the level of Lecturer recently and have

planned to advertise about the same number of positions at the level of Associate Professor and Professor. We are only waiting for guidelines and necessary qualifications for recruitment to these positions to come from the UGC . As soon as this is finalised we will release the advertisement for these positions also. We have implemented the Government of India and UGC guidelines on providing reservations to SC, ST and OBC in the Lecturer cadre and will implement the same for the cadres of Associate Professor and Professor in letter and spirit. The recruitment of faculty will be taken up as a drive.

We have implemented the orders of Govt. of India on Sixth (VI) Pay revisions. Necessary action are underway for fixation of salaries in accordance with the above and I hope it will be completed early.

Finally, in everything that is there to work for and achieve for a healthy growth of this university, I invite your suggestions and solicit cooperation from you all, I believe I will have no reason for disappointment.

We are also committed to reduce our adverse impact on environment by improving our environmental performance. Therefore, I wish that our University should have its own 'Environmental Policy' reflecting our drive to conserve resources, reduce pollution and increase overall awareness of environmental issues. In this direction, we have prepared our Environmental Calendar depicting various important days pertaining to environment protection and awareness. Various programmes are organized and activities undertaken in the university in accordance with the relevance and importance of these days depicted in the environmental calendar. Recently, the University celebrated World Environment day on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 to make the campus clean, green, beautiful and eco-friendly. On this occasion the University Community also took a pledge to rationalize the use of water and electricity and to contribute in keeping the environment clean and in protection of plants. I, myself, took a pledge and made an appeal to the members of the University community on this occasion not to use Motor Bike or Car while coming to the work place on the last day of every month. I reiterate my appeal to you all.

One of the prime duties of the universities in my opinion is to inculcate good moral values and ethics among our students and promote these among our faculty and others. *Mahamana* Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviyaji himself has emphasized the need for this.

I quote:

**“It (the University) will seek not merely to turn out men as engineers, scientists, doctors, merchants, theologians but also as men of high character, probity and honour, whose conduct through life will show that they bear the hall-mark of a great University.”**

Unquote

I, therefore, strongly feel that we should have our own “Value Promotion Policy” which should guide us to have an appropriate action plan and teaching-learning environment for value based education and administration. We are serious on this issue and a committee is already working on this significant aspect.

Formation of values in students is highly affected by the value commitment of the faculty as reflected in their attitude and behavior. Therefore it is important that their conduct in all areas of academic life be exemplary. Suitable institutional mechanisms should be devised to ensure this.

In addition to value promotion policy we should also show some commitment towards service to society and promotion of health. Some steps have been taken in this direction and recent one is to make this campus “Tobacco Free”. I solicit the help and cooperation of each and every member of the university community to make this happen.

In the pursuit of knowledge and development, it is very important that we should continue to have close linkages with our alumni. They are flag-bearers of our university to the outside world and are ever ready to provide their help and cooperation to their *Alma-mater*. It is heartening to note that BHU has been maintaining its linkages with its alumni through various means and methods. It has been organizing alumni meets regularly. This year also we are organizing an International Alumni Meet during 25 to 27 December, 2009. On this occasion an International Seminar on “Higher Education: Global perspective and Indian Vision” is also being organized. I request you all to contact more and more number of alumni and request them to participate in the meet and the seminar.

New academic session has started and we are in the process of admitting new students to our university and we all need to take care of them scrupulously as they are leaving their home for the first time and entering into hostels of higher learning on such a big canvas as ours. We need to support them and make them feel at ease and ensure that they are not subjected to any kind of ragging resulting their embarrassment, physical or psychological trauma. The Government and the UGC are very serious on eliminating this menace from the university and the UGC has promulgated regulation on this for all the universities and the colleges to implement and follow. Although, BHU has been largely free from ragging yet we need to be extra vigilant to ensure that not a single incident of ragging happen on our campus. I request all the Directors and Deans to organize an introduction and orientation programmes in the institutes and faculties as soon as possible to pre-empt any attempt of introduction of freshers by their seniors at individual level.

साथियों! हम एक महान संस्थापक द्वारा स्थापित उस श्रेष्ठ विश्वविद्यालय के अभिन्न अंग हैं जिसका इतिहास अत्यन्त गौरवशाली है तथा जो उदात्त भारतीय संस्कृति एवं परम्पराओं का निर्वाहक रहा है। यह वह संस्था है जिसकी उपलब्धियां किसी को भी गर्वित करने वाली हैं। इस महान गौरवशाली परम्परा को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए मेरी यह सद्‌इच्छा है कि यह सर्वविद्या की राजधानी, सद्‌गुणों की भी राजधानी बने जिसमें किसी भी प्रकार की बुराई, व्यसन, असहिष्णुता, कलह, दुराचरण आदि का कोई स्थान न हो।

मेरी तमन्ना है कि जब कोई एक आदर्श विश्वविद्यालय की परिकल्पना के मूर्त रूप को देखना चाहे तो वह काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय की ओर देखे। जब कभी कोई आदर्श शैक्षणिक वातावरण, आदर्श शिक्षक, आदर्श विद्यार्थी, आदर्श कार्यप्रणाली एवं आदर्श शिक्षा को देखना चाहे तो वह काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय की ओर रूख करे।

साथियों राष्ट्र हमारी ओर निहार रहा है। आइये हम सब मिलकर इस दिशा में सार्थक पहल करें। आप सभी को इस अकादमिक सत्र की सफलता के लिए एक बार पुनः शुभकामनाएं।

जय हिन्द