



# BHU NEWS

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## INAUGURATION OF SAVITRI DEVI DALMIA VIGYAN BHAWAN



(From R to L) Sri Arjun Singh, Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India with the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Panjab Singh and Prof. Sushila Singh, Principal, MMV at the time of inauguration

A landmark has been added to the Mahila Mahavidyalaya of the Banaras Hindu University during its Platinum Jubilee in the form of the newly constructed Savitri Devi Dalmia Vigyan Bhawan on 28 December'05. This extensive infra structural facility has been created through the efforts and generous donation (over Rs. 7 crores) by a distinguished alumna of MMV, Smt Usha Mittal, who is a well known entrepreneur and an active philanthropist. Constructed over floor area of 7828 square meters, this magnificent double storey building, built within a record period of less than a year, houses 111 rooms including conference hall, lecture theatres, science laboratories, faculty rooms, reading hall, tutorial rooms and other facilities, being connected to the main building of MMV through a covered corridor.

Sri Arjun Singh, Minister of Human Resource Development, inaugurated the Savitri Devi Dalmia Vigyan Bhawan on December 28, 2005. Lauding the role of women in the development of the country, in his inaugural address, Sri Singh said women are on the forefront of every field, making India proud. Women are conducting latest researches in diverse fields of humanities, science and technology. However, he expressed concern over the decreasing number of Indian scholars opting for research in science and exhorted them to come forward and ensure country's progress in the era of modern science

and technology because India has reached at the crossroads of knowledge revolution or knowledge evolution. He hoped that with the vastly improved infrastructure, the Women's College of Banaras Hindu University will make great strides in promoting higher education, particularly science education which is a prime need of the hour. Sri Singh appreciated the young men and women of the country, spread across the globe, being acknowledged in the field of science and technology knowledge creation.

Paying profound tributes to Mahamana Pt Madan Mohan Malaviya, one of the foremost builders of modern India, Sri Arjun Singh said in the field of education, Banaras Hindu University remains and will ever remain as a permanent monument to his life and personality. The idea before Malaviyaji in establishing this university was to make available to the country in every field men and women of high character filled with patriotism. The University today stands as an All India University in the holy city of Kashi (Varanasi) the cultural and religious capital of India for preserving the national unity.

Presiding over the function, the Vice-Chancellor Prof Panjab Singh described the Vigyan Bhawan as a landmark in the history of BHU and thanked the donor Smt Usha Mittal and her family. He praised the tremendous progress made by MMV in recent years and hoped the students will carve a niche for themselves in national development.

Prof Singh called upon the distinguished alumni of BHU to come forward to help their alma mater in its pursuit of excellence.

Smt Usha Mittal, who could not attend the function, was represented by her brother, Sri Kunal Dalmia, the Guest of Honour at the inauguration. Sri Kunal Dalmia said his sister Smt Usha Mittal is very happy to have made this investment for the cause of women's education. He urged the students to make the best use of the facility created.

Welcoming the guests, Principal Prof. Sushila Singh recalled that the visionary founder of the Banaras Hindu University, Mahamana Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji established the Women's College in 1929, now known as Mahila Mahavidyalaya and last year its Platinum Jubilee was celebrated. Mahamana foresaw the immense significance of women's education and the critical role women will have to play in the development of our country. As stated in his famous Convocation Address to our University in 1929, he believed "the education of our women is a matter of even greater importance than the education of our men". Mahamana aimed to recast the very idea of womanhood in India by empowering women with the best amalgamation of traditional ideals and modern knowledge. The Vigyan Bhawan symbolizes women's dedication to research and pursuit of knowledge to meet the contemporary new challenges and march towards excellence. Prof. Sushila Singh expressed deep gratitude to Smt. Usha Mittal for this thoughtful support to her alma mater during its Platinum Jubilee.

It may be recalled that Smt Usha Mittal née Dalmia, the President Director of Ispat Indo in Indonesia and Board Member of Ispat, was the Chief Guest at the Inauguration of Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of MMV on March 14, 2004. Smt Mittal was accompanied by her illustrious husband, Sri Lakshmi N Mittal, the steel magnate and family members.

A meritorious student of Women's College from 1966 to 1970, she studied Economics, Political Science and English Literature. Smt Usha Mittal was conferred the Platinum Jubilee Distinguished Alumna Award on the occasion. She graciously offered to build a new Science Block for MMV.