



# SANT GADGE BABA AMRAVATI UNIVERSITY

28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVOCATION

Convocation Address

by

Hon'ble Prof. D.P.Agrawal  
Chairman,  
Union Public Service Commission  
New Delhi

Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2012

AMRAVATI - 444 602

**28<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the Sant Gadge Baba Amravati  
University**

**18 February 2012.**

**Address by Prof D P Agrawal, Chairman, Union Public  
Service Commission, Delhi**

The Vice Chancellor of the university Prof. M K Khedkar, Members of Management council, ; Members of senate and Academic council; Deans of Faculties; Heads of department; Members of faculty; Parents of graduating students; Graduating and other students; distinguished invitees, ladies and gentlemen;

I thank the vice Chancellor Prof Khedkar for inviting me on the occasion of the Convocation of this university. It is a singular honour and privilege to speak to you all and share the joy of graduating students, family and their parents. This is an occasion when the members of university fraternity are rightly proud to see the fruits of their cumulative efforts being reflected in the quality of the pass outs from the university joining world of work. I greatly appreciate the efforts of each of you.

It is an important day in the life of the students who receive their degrees & medals today. I congratulate you on your success . My best wishes to each one of you as you embark on the exciting journey in to the world of work. I am sure, this will be a hugely rewarding phase of your life.

The World outside is different in many ways than the environment of a university which is supportive, cooperative and protective. However, the work place is full of competition, targets, timelines, quality, innovations and challenges to achieve best returns on investment.

Established on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1983, the auspicious Maharashtra Day & Worker's Day, this University, has contributed in many ways for the economic, social and cultural upliftment of the society by offering quality education. I am sure, that university has crossed many hurdles in its path of development and now ready to be best in the global arena. The Motto of the University – ***“Education for Salvation of Soul”*** is in sync with the vision of Sant Gadge Baba. This must act as a beacon in achieving peace, development and welfare of our people and the nation.

I wish to emphasize that Universities not only provide education and training to students but act as driver for the development of the region and the nation. The Vidarbha region has many problems at local level wherein university can contribute. In this regard University may partner the administration in finding out solutions of these problems by using their knowledge capital of social science, advanced technology and science research. I may also mention that most of the world class universities are known for their contribution to society and the societies also

own them. I am sure that this university shall create such a paradigm.

We are a nation of young people. Between 2010-2030, India will add 241 Million people in working-age population. Youth has a power to make a difference and we look them for the leadership role in science, technology and development. I therefore, decided to focus this address to the youth on country.

We live in a highly connected globalized and liberalized world. The liberalization of Indian economy has resulted in i) a highly competitive environment, ii) Indian business going global, iii) great all round emphasis on technology, quality and cost, iv) greater concern in society for environmental issues and v) unprecedented development and use of information technology. Efficient and effective management of the enterprises plays a crucial role in this context. In this new world order, the youth are nurturing hopes to do better and lead quality life.

In the words of James” Youth is the joy, the little bird that has broken out of the eggs and is eagerly waiting to spread out its wings in the open sky of freedom and hope”. Youth is dreamy. Their dreams take them to stars and galaxies to the far corners of the unknown and some of them pursue their dream, till they realize it and die for it in process. Martin Luther has said, “I have a Dream” and the dreams come largely true if you pursue them.

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The youth hopes for a world free of poverty, unemployment, inequality and exploitation of man by man and a world free of discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, language and gender and a world full of creative challenges and opportunities to conquer them. We have to facilitate the conversion of these hopes in to treality.

Young people are a crucial segment of society; they are the basis for future development and are social actors of change and can serve as a pressure group to lobby governments in defining their priorities. It has been clearly stressed that “youth are not only the leaders of tomorrow, but the partners of today”. The UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan underlined the role of youth as actors who have real expertise complementary to that of academics and researchers. It is important to strive towards the involvement of young people as active citizens.

The skills the youth will need for the next 2 to 3 decades from now will be very different than are being taught in classrooms today. We need visionaries who look into the future and plan to provide required skills. The government’s investments in R&D, technology, defence capabilities, electronics, bio-technology etc., may stand them in good stead.

Present day youth demand a more cosmopolitan society that is a full-fledged member of the global economy. They will start their

own businesses and contribute to a more vibrant economy. "This is the generation that is reclaiming India's future," says Gurcharan Das, a former chief executive of Procter & Gamble Company.

The computer literacy and education are eradicating caste barriers. While caste and social position still dominates Indian politics, sociologists predict the rigid lines of the system will continue to ease. Already, urban youth are more concerned with their professional ambition than their caste. Another driving force of change is TV. Its cultural impact has been revolutionary.

A number of high-tech startups are taking off in India regularly. The new entrepreneurs are getting younger from an average age of about 40 previously to about 25 now. I believe that this spirit of enterprise will change the face of the Indian economy and society in general.

Liberalization has created new career models and heroes for India's young. Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates is especially popular, and so are successful home-grown entrepreneurs like N.R. Narayana Murthy of Infosys Technologies Ltd. Role models are also coming from arena of sports, music, films earlier unheard for.

Companies are reaching out to the computer-literate youth and using them for enabling their services to the villagers. For a fee, they offer e-mail services. For the youth of the village, such opportunities are a great incentive for staying home rather than moving to the cities.

However, many challenges remain for the youthful population, particularly girls. They face gender disparities in education and nutrition, early marriage and discrimination, especially against those belonging to the socially excluded castes and tribes. These are among the barriers of advancing the development and protecting the rights of young people.

Indian policymakers will also need to recognize that realization of the demographic dividend depends on an economy's capacity to absorb workers into productive employment. This capacity is strengthened by:

- good governance (effective avenues for citizen input, well-functioning institutions, respect for the rule of law, low level of corruption, respect for property rights, sanctity of contracts);
- efficient infrastructure (reliable roads, railways, telecommunications, water supply, sanitation, and agricultural needs);

- prudent fiscal and macroeconomic management (policies that keep inflation reasonable, promote inclusive economic growth, avoid severe trade imbalances);
- well-developed and competitive financial markets (institutions that facilitate mobilization of savings, safeguards to ensure that banks and other financial institutions serve the public interest) and labor markets (a negotiated balance of power between employers and workers); and above all,
- investments in education and training (strength in all levels of schooling for females and males of all income levels and castes, job training for workers to keep up with new types of services and industries).

Let there be no doubt about the strength, power and capability of youth. Their counterparts have changed the governments in their countries. The ability of a society to develop itself is based at least in part on the extent to which it can integrate the potential and input of the younger generation into future planning and development processes. But with UN intervention, many partner countries came to recognize the importance of children and youth in sustainable social development and poverty reduction strategies, and against terrorism.

Educated unemployment is due to a mismatch between the aspirations of graduates and employment opportunities available to them. The Youth are energetic, dynamic and daring; above all, are easily evoked to violence governed by emotion more than reason. Therefore, youth is decidedly vulnerable to violence.



However, violence is not an innate quality of the youth; there could be myriads of factors that drag youth to violence, such as difficult childhood, parental break downs, gap between rich and poor, non accessibility of public service etc.

In addition to the above factors, ethnic issues including discrimination against one's own race and inferiority complex placed on one's own ethnicity, wars, peer pressure, gang pressure, unemployment, poor performance at school, lack of rehabilitation for drug addicts and abused children and adolescence and influences of media and technology counting movies that capture violence, are some other causes for violence among youth. Governments have an important role to play to obliterate these causes of youth violence; parents should be made aware about the impacts of the family values on children and youth.

It is also known that the youth bulge coupled with several non-military security threats in the form of bad governance, illegal migration, cyber terrorism, environmental degradation, climate change, organised crime and counterfeit currencies, was a perfect recipe for disaster.

Educated unemployment is due to a mismatch between the aspirations of graduates and employment opportunities available to them. It is seen in Indian community that parents put his son after getting 95% in science stream in view to make him an

Engineer or a Doctor. Parents hardly think what his child wants to study, what are his wishes.

India's youth have a very unique advantage, a combination of mobility, language, education, a thirst for knowledge and a technology-savvy nature, qualities that will drive the nation's growth in the coming years. What the youth can expect in the years to come will depend on how well they understand and leverage their rights and how willingly and efficiently they are able to shoulder their responsibilities. Fortunately, the current knowledge base of the society, as also the experiences of the past, is broad enough to help the present generation overcome the challenges with confidence and zeal.

Indian economy has grown. It has open many opportunities for development of new sectors of industry offering variety of jobs. Notable amongst them are: Software, Poultry, Mining and construction, Biochemical, manufacturing, Power sector, Entertainment, Service sector, Realty and *actuarial sector*, *Food processing*, *Electronics*, FMCG, Automobile, Textile, Pharmacy, Leather, handicraft, Instrumentation, dairy, Tea, Media and advertisement, finance and banking and many more.

I would also like to refer to your role in educating people to eradicate social evils - female feticide, child marriage, and addiction. Many, who are earning their livelihood by working as labourers, squander away their income in addiction and remain

poor even though they have employment. So, these social evils are not only against their own interest but also against the interest of their family, society and the nation. No economic progress can be successful if earned income does not go to increase the standard of living. So, you also have to work as an agent of social change and social reforms.

This year is the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Shri Vivekanand: The great thinker and the philosopher. He exhorted the youth for nation building. He said to the youth "be conscious of your responsibility towards family, society and the nation and try to contribute to their betterment- may be bit by bit and day by day. He wanted them to be a came changer by setting an example for others to emulate.

In the word of an unknown poet:

**'Youth is like a fire**

**It crept forward.**

**A Spark at first**

**Growing into a flame**

**The brightening into a Blaze'.**

I salute you.

Jai Hind.