

Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune

Seventh Convocation 2016

Chancellor's speech

Good Evening,

Dignitaries on the dais -

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Government of India, Dr. D. Y. Patil former Governor of Bihar, Guest of honour National Research Professor Bharat Ratna Dr. C. N. R. Rao, Dr. P. N. Razdan, Vice-Chancellor DPU, Esteemed guests, members of press and media, parents and my dear young graduants,

Today is an auspicious finale of yet another successful academic year. On this 7th convocation of DPU, I extend warm welcome to all the guests gracing the occasion.

At the very onset, I congratulate my graduates who have received degrees and honours today. It's a milestone in your life and this degree will enable you zoom through the path of success and contentment.

I would like to express my appreciation to the guest of honor for accepting the honorary degree.

August Audience.....

Today's generation is thriving in an exciting period of transition from tradition to modernity. With the speed of economic and technological growth, India has taken lead in Education movement and going through swift transition in a manner that would be useful to the youngsters to face the challenges of competitive environment. Pune has always been a seat of knowledge and has taken a lead in this new education movement.

It is a matter of great privilege for me to present some accomplishments of DPU which came to its own more than two decades ago in the academic firmament of the nation.

DPU has distinguished itself as a rapidly expanding institute of higher learning which started with a medical college and now has seven constituent institutions under our umbrella. With standardization and quality assurance, we are able to provide best courses from foundation to Ph. D. Programmes in all relevant and emerging disciplines.

Our efforts have been to strengthen the various verticals constantly through seamless knowledge-based integration among various levels of this knowledge pyramid. We promote new traditions- nurturing an accessible, affordable, inclusive, technological and traditional university programmes.

In pursuit of scientific knowledge, we foster consistency in human centric research which ensures sustainability of healthy human life. The Vidyapeeth has given emphasis to collaborative research with national and international institutions and industries.

True to its mission and vision, DPU has been organizing all possible urban and rural healthcare services and diagnostic health care camps to reach out to the larger section of the society. Be it active participation in National health Programmes or adoption of villages for providing diagnostic services and effective health care, Vidyapeeth has always dedicated its expertise for the betterment of the people.

DPU takes pride in having 1,200 bedded super specialty Hospital offering treatment in all three major medical streams -Allopathy, Homeopathy and Ayurveda. All types of sophisticated investigations such as MRI, CT Scan, Mammography, Colour Doppler and many more are carried out free of cost for indoor patients.

It is certainly encouraging to see DPU emerging as a educational hub with academic excellence, global credibility and stature. I congratulate the hard work, devotion and dedication of all the DPU faculty, staff and members of management team for this notable achievement.

Ladies and gentlemen;

We are honoured to have illustrious personalities amongst us.

Founder of this seat of knowledge Padmshree Dr. D. Y. Patil has been a source of inspiration to us all.

His futuristic vision and guidance has been instrumental in shaping educational scenario across the nation.

Hallmark of a great person is that he hardly wears attitude. We are happy to have one such great socio-Political leader Dr. Harsh Vardhan amongst us. Fondly called “*Doctor Saab*” by supporters and opponents alike, he is known for disarming simplicity in his personal life and transparency at the work place. He is a Doctor who joined politics with laudable objective to use medical knowledge and experience for serving common in yet another level.

A major pioneering initiative of Dr. Harsh Vardhan has been his initiative of implementing World Health Organization’s Essential Drug Programme, which revolutionized governments’ attitudes on public health care. In January 2001, the then Prime Minister Atalbihari Vajpayee honoured him with Rotary International’s “**Polio Eradication Champion Award**” and he appreciatively described Dr Harsh Vardhan as “*Swasthya Vardhan*”.

Much before the age of internet and wide spread social media, Doctor Saab championed the cause of polio eradication taking it to national level by his personal interactions with state governments. His book ‘Tale of two drops’ is an inspirational account of the visionary programme of polio eradication which helped India stand in the line of Polio free nations of the world.

He is committed to set a roadmap for the implementation of the “Make in India” programme by building a robust R&D infrastructure and promoting synergies between industry and scientific research institutions.

A strong believer in the teachings of Swami Vivekananda, he derives spiritual strength from his pearls of wisdom. He implements and follows theory of integral humanism in his own political life which is not only for the betterment of the society and nation but for mankind as a whole.

Our Guest of honour today, is such a tall personality in the field of science that it is just not possible to speak about him in given few minutes.

Professor **Chintamani Nagesa Ramachandra Rao** is one of the most accomplished and decorated scientists of the nation today. He is the third Scientist to be honored with India's highest civilian award -- the Bharat Ratna which is indeed a crowning glory of his inexhaustible list of outstanding achievements.

As an ardent follower of Madhawacharya’s philosophy, Dr. Rao embodies confluence of spirituality, faith and modern science. He believes that both Science and spirituality seek to understand the secret of life. Both climb the limitless ladder of excellence to attain perfection and knowledge of ultimate reality. He follows the philosophy of two distinct worlds - one of spirituality and another, the world that we live in. He firmly believes in the reality of this world and concept of omnipresent and omniscient God.

Unlike popular notion that science and faith are two thoughts poles apart, this great scientist stands by faith. For him, it is essential to have faith and pray in order to have a definite way of life and guidelines for ourselves to live harmoniously in this world. His association with Banaras further strengthened his spiritual understanding. This city of light guided him not only in his endeavors of science and spirituality but also inculcated love for music.

It is this unique combination of all three aspects of life that enables him to see beyond seen. In fact, Dr. Rao maintains that scientific pursuit is essentially a creative urge and is also an important part of the culture. It is creative as nothing can be more thrilling than to see mere pollen like idea develops into a way of life.

He firmly believes that with science, we have to solve pressing problems of poverty while competing with rest of the world. As a great institution builder, he has great expectation from the youth of India - particularly rural youth and sees future Einstein, Michael Faraday in them.

This highly honored 'science personified' professor is a very down to earth and simple in his ways. It is famous that he is a kind of 'technophobic' in a sense that he does not use gadgets except phone that also to connect to his people.

It is indeed unique in this era of smart tech savvy mania gripped society.

We are sure, with Dr. Rao, as the Head of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India, our nation will achieve new heights in the science arena of the world.

My dear students,

The best moments of our lives are when we get the chance to see, meet and listen to the great people and derive strength to follow our dreams.

Today is an important milestone as you begin your journey towards becoming a competent and compassionate professional. But the main focus to keep in mind, is that this is supposed to be a challenge and that it's worth it.

As you are standing at the threshold of professional path, I would like to funnel some pearls of thoughts for your head start in the life.

Remember-

-Your dreams don't have a time limit. Explore your options and stay motivated.

As in this competitive world we have only two options

-Either perform or perish;

-Either survive or vanish;

And

-Either get better; or get beaten.

Finally

Students, you have a long journey ahead of you, but always keep in mind that

'Whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve.'

With this once again I wish you all with great success in life ahead.

Thank You