

**VINOBA BHAVE UNIVERSITY , HAZARIBAGH,  
7<sup>TH</sup> CONVOCATION**

**9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016, Speech by the Chancellor**

**Hon'ble The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Union Minister of State for Finance, Shri Jayant Sinha, Minister of Higher Education, Technical education and Literacy, Dr. Neera Yadav, Former Union Minister of Finance and foreign Affairs, Sri Yashwant Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice- Chancellor and all faculty members of Vinoba Bhave University, Representatives from Print & Electronic media and Ladies & Gentlemen.**

**Johar!**

**The auspicious presence of Hon'ble the President of India as Chief Guest of this convocation ceremony will always remain in un-effaceable memory of this University. I feel scarcity of words to**

define the unrivalled dynamism, versatility and the par-excellent intellectual efficiency of Sri Pranab Mukherjee , the Hon'ble President of India. His near about 5 decades of dedicated public service has made him an invaluable asset to the nation. I really feel thrilled to welcome you , Sir.

ଆ ନୋ ଭଦ୍ରା: କ୍ୱରତବତେ। ଯନ୍ତୁ ବିଶ୍ୱତେ।"- I begin with the famous Rig-Vedic hymn that " Let noble thoughts come from all directions of the universe.

It gives me immense pleasure to preside and address the graduands at the 7<sup>th</sup> Convocation of Vinoba Bhave University (VBU). The contribution of first Gandhian satyagrahi and pioneer of Bhoodan Movement , Acharya Vinoba Bhave seems to have greatly influenced the North Chhotanagpur region, which is precisely the social base of this flourishing University. I compliment all present here for having successfully fulfill the vision of the founders of this prestigious University of Jharkhand.

It is always an honour and privilege to receive the degree from one's institution of learning and formally be prepared to contribute to the world at large,. I congratulate all the degree recipients present here. At this juncture, I would not hesitate to revisit the famous quote of the Acharya Vinoba-" A country should be defended not by arms, but by ethical behavior."

I would again remind you the famous Sanskrit verse " ବିଦ୍ଵା ଦଦାତି ବିନୟ , ବିନୟାଦଦାତି ପାତ୍ଵରତାମ" Education brings out humbleness.

Since independence, higher education has always been identified as a critical piece in scripting India's growth story. This ongoing trend has resulted in India having one of the largest education systems in the world.

But this trajectory has not been accompanied by matching improvements in the delivery of higher education and consequent outcomes. The Indian

Higher Education System, in general, the State Universities, in particular, continues to be bogged down by the challenges of inadequate access & retention resulting into low Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) & Drop outs , poor quality and inequity reflecting in rural-urban and gender divide across various communities.

Reforms in higher education are intensely under discourse amongst the stakeholders of higher education, ranging from the Governments, Universities, Leaders & eminent thinkers in the field of education. It hardly needs mention that most reform initiatives in higher education have to take roots at the University level along with other stakeholders. I have personally, time and again, during my short stint of seven months as Chancellor, advised for culturing quality education and dispersing it amongst students as a crying need of hour.

For me, it is a matter of great fulfillment that within fifteen years of its existence and despite several constraints , the State of Jharkhand has been catering to the higher needs primarily, through its five State Universities.

Vinoba Bhave University from its foundation since 1992, has proved its worth by steadily improving its standard of higher education in Jharkhand. It is desirable and proud mentioning that despite the constraints, VBU has been illustrative in overcoming the obstacles through 'Common Resource Pool Sharing' and other innovative and best practices.

I had been at the VBU Campus on a couple of occasions when the University held National Seminars on the themes, Human Resource Development of Jharkhand and Make in India, The road ahead . I could sense the vibrant strength of the Institution and the sincerity and the sense of purpose

of faculties, students and academicians who had gathered on occasions.

I am very happy to know that V.B.U. is developing a competitive and collaborative spirit, which is an important ingredient for the University to attain excellence in education.

The Graduands, I am fully confident, will demonstrate their potential to the world, and prove the mark of their degrees by excelling in their respective fields. The graduates of this University have an onerous duty upon them to bring good name & fame to the University as well as the state by their exemplary work. I congratulate them and their mentors for commendable work accomplished on their part and wish them all the best for their future endeavour. I hope and expect that they would be able to bring glory to their alma-mater towards its journey of distinction.

My dear Students, you have earned well deserved degrees with great effort and dedication. I once again congratulate all the recipients of degrees and hope that they are equipped with the knowledge , skill and training gained at this esteemed University , you will be able to properly face the challenges of the competitive world and make important contribution to the society , state and the Nation. I advise you not to leave the practice of studying ever, and with the famous quote of the father of the nation that “Live as if you were to die tomorrow, Learn as if you were to live forever”, I conclude here.

**Jai Hind!**