



# University of Delhi

## **Annual Convocation, 2018**

### **Address by Professor Yogesh Tyagi, Vice Chancellor**

The Hon'ble Vice President of India, the Chancellor of the University of Delhi and the Chief Guest for today's function, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu ji

Hon'ble Minister of State for Human Resource Development and the Guest of Honor for today, Dr Satya Pal Singh ji

Distinguished guests, members of the Executive Council, Faculty, Staff, recipients of the degrees, eminent alumni, ladies and gentlemen present here at the 95th convocation and those joining us from various parts of the world through the webcast of the function . . . Namaskar!

It is my privilege to extend a cordial welcome to all of you on behalf of the University of Delhi.

Hearty congratulations to the graduating students and their respective families and friends!

Hon'ble Vice President and Chancellor, the University of Delhi is indebted to you for gracing this auspicious occasion with your august presence. You have always been our constant pillar of strength. Your presence is assured in our endeavors and you had cordially inaugurated the Delhi School of Journalism. Your words of wisdom have always enlightened me and have strengthened my steps. The last four decades have witnessed your rich contributions in various capacities towards nation building. Your participation in public affairs is remarkable. Thanks to your wit, grit and determination, the stewardship of the upper house of Parliament has been immensely appreciated. You have proved your mettle as a grassroots leader and a relentless contributor to the development of modern India. Shri Venkaiah Naidu ji, the University of Delhi is privileged to have you as its Chancellor and also as the Chief Guest for today.

May I invite this wonderful audience to give a standing ovation to the Hon'ble Vice President of India and the Chancellor of the University of Delhi!

Hon'ble Minister Dr Satya Pal Singh ji, your alma mater is honored to welcome one of its illustrious alumni. It is indeed a proud moment for all of us and we are delighted to have you among us. We thank you for your kind presence here. You have never been away from this university and have been a continuing force to me. Your brilliant ideas, unconventional thinking and daring engagement in public discourses are appealing and constructive. The positive effects of your hard work are bound to take the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to new heights and glory under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and the Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development.

May I invite this illustrious gathering to join me in giving a standing ovation to the Hon'ble Minister!

This year also the University of Delhi is going to award degrees to more than one lakh graduating students. Since its establishment in 1922, the University family has been expanding through the fraternity of its alumni who have gone on to make a mark in every walk of life. It is a matter of tremendous pleasure that both the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India are the distinguished alumni of the University of Delhi. The eight sitting judges of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir, and a great many other distinguished judges, lawyers, scholars, ministers, public servants, artists, sportspersons, and nation builders, among others contribute to the strength of our alumni; by virtue of which, the University of Delhi holds the twenty-first position in QS's Alumni Outcomes indicator.

Our alumni are our pride. They have made an outstanding contribution at both national and international levels. Their continuing support to their alma mater deserves a thunderous applause. And we wish them all the best!

Hon'ble Vice President and Chancellor, last year, we had set several goals to take forward the vision and growth of the University of Delhi. We have attained some of those goals and we remain committed to our steadfast work to achieve the rest in due course.

The year 2017–2018 saw many endeavors from our part but I would like to point out six major achievements of the University of Delhi.

Our aspiration is to help build the cyber shield of India, as well as that of the world, and we have set the process in motion by establishing the Institute of Cyber Security and Law. This is our major achievement of 2017–2018. The first batch of the students of the Institute, who have joined the one-year programme of the Institute in order to acquire the highest level of professional competence with ethical commitment in the field of cyber security and law, is present here. The best available expertise and resources have been mobilized in making, shaping and implementing the programme. We thank our partners in this joint venture.

The University of Delhi has emerged as one of the few Institutes of Eminence (IoEs) in 2017–2018. This is the result of a rigorous process of selection led by an Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) pursuant to the UGC (Declaration of Government Educational Institutions as Institutions of Eminence) Guidelines, 2017. The selection was done on the basis of assessment of both the past performance and future plan of action of each one of the 113 applicant institutions. The University of Delhi is the only central university that has been selected as one of the eight public IoEs, although a formal announcement is eagerly awaited; the post-selection process is expected to be pursued in due course. The University could achieve this by virtue of the collective efforts and constructive thinking of our exceptional faculty members. The IoE status will enable us to secure good financial support leading to new academic initiatives enabling the University to serve society better and thereby increasing its ranking.

The third achievement is the selection of the University of Delhi as one of the administrators of the Leadership for Academicians Program (LEAP). This innovative scheme has been launched by the MHRD to develop future academic leaders. It will

enable us to train these young minds in collaboration with a top ranking university in the world.

The University of Delhi has recently completed the process of evaluation of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), which is a major milestone in its history. It was a versatile exercise in which every department of the University worked hard, day and night, and deliberated to make a difference in every sphere of university life. Today, with the insights gained from this intensive exercise we have rebuilt ourselves leaving behind our apparent weaknesses. Most important, we are determined to maintain the momentum of improvement in every sphere of university life. On behalf of the University I place on record our deep appreciation to our colleagues, both teaching and non-teaching, for giving their best to the NAAC process and for committing themselves in the endeavor to improve our institution.

Fifth, the University has undertaken an extensive exercise to revise and modernize its postgraduate courses, which amounts to a thousand and more. This exercise which was long overdue was undertaken through a democratic, transparent and inclusive approach. We consulted various stakeholders and also sought expert advice. The process of revision and modernization of most of the postgraduate courses is almost complete in substantive terms; in procedural terms, the final drafts of revised courses will be placed before the competent bodies for their consideration and approval. There are some issues regarding a few courses, but we hope to reach consensus in respect of them by adopting a constructive approach. We urge various stakeholders to maintain their faith in our democratic process. It is our duty to offer fresh and healthy nutrients to

nourish the intellect of our students so that they can grow right way to serve society to the best of their abilities.

Last but not the least, the University of Delhi and the government of Germany have developed an understanding to expand our partnership. Hon'ble German President Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier along with his delegation was kind enough to visit the University of Delhi in March 2018 and, on his initiative, a mechanism has been established to offer funding and opportunities of exchange programmes to our researchers and faculty members. This is an unprecedented development in the history of international collaborations. It will enable us to access research facilities in German institutions and think about more collaboration.

These achievements strengthen our credentials as a leader in modernizing higher education in India, imparting high quality and affordable education to a very large number of students, and producing accomplished academicians, policymakers, public servants and leaders who prove their mettle in their respective avenues. This is indeed a matter of immense pleasure for all of us.

Even when we have achieved all these tasks we are humbled by what remains to be done. We are aware that we have more potential which needs to be taken forward. We have more responsibilities than what we have delivered is a fact that cannot be ignored. Society expects a lot from us, and we are obliged to respond to its rising expectations. We have a duty to continue to excel in the field of higher education, to produce high quality research, to enhance our global ranking, and to give our best to nation building as well as the welfare of global society by virtue of our commitment to the principle of

*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्), which has its origin in the Maha Upanishad.

More pertinently, we must acknowledge that we owe a lot to those who are yet to reap the fruits of development. We cannot afford to get lost in any negative thinking. We must remember that the 21<sup>st</sup> century is the Asian century, in which India must lead from the front. The University of Delhi has to strengthen its resolve to play a more meaningful role in the new millennium.

As I mentioned last year, we can realize our full potential and meet the rising expectations of society by providing a healthy academic environment, good governance, adherence to the rule of law, optimum utilization of resources, a development-friendly approach and positive thinking.

In this direction, the University has taken a number of initiatives. For instance, vacant posts of Principals in almost all university-maintained colleges have been filled up and in a few remaining colleges, the process is underway. We have streamlined the process of filing online applications for promotion. We are awaiting legal clarity and judicial guidance in respect of faculty recruitment so that we can expedite our steps in this regard.

We are also working hard to streamline the process of recruitment of non-teaching staff with the help of an independent and impartial body.

We have been able to make the process of admission transparent by the distinctive efforts of those who are at the helm of affairs. Although some cases of malpractices

have come to our notice, we have the process of accountability in place and a strong resolve to take corrective measures. And we would not like any delinquent in the admission process to go scot free.

Hon'ble Vice President and Chancellor, please permit me to emphasize that we remain committed to develop a law-abiding, corruption-free, and excellence-oriented educational institution. We have zero tolerance for corruption. Some of the measures that we have taken have their positive effect and, with some additional efforts and support, we can quickly break in to the league of top 100 universities in the world.

We continue to provide special assistance to students from the weaker sections of society. We organize free coaching classes to those needy students who appear in competitive exams for admission in the most popular courses of the University. We have launched a special drive to attract foreign students. In this regard, we cooperate with various embassies and also with the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR). We have joined hands with the ICCR and plan to build a hostel for foreign students so that the housing facility constraint does not come in their way of studying at the University of Delhi.

We would like to take up several new initiatives during the next year. Among others, we are planning to construct a hostel with the CSR support of the ONGC. In this regard, we deeply appreciate the National Commission for Schedule Tribes, which facilitated the CSR funding for the hostel project. Following the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, various government bodies and officials are working to enable the University of Delhi to develop a campus in the Najafgarh area. Small building projects have been

cleared by the UGC and a duly selected agency will start work on those projects soon. We are eagerly looking forward to the funding for a number of other projects so that our pressing needs for infrastructure development are met satisfactorily. Preliminary preparations are underway for the establishment of the Delhi School of Public Health and the Delhi School of Public Policy, both of which are envisaged in our IoE proposal.

Hon'ble Vice President and Chancellor, we believe that a great university must demonstrate its exemplary social sensitivity. Although the Department of Social Work, University of Delhi, is already engaged in this field, we want to do more. Therefore, inspired by your gracious presence, we are commencing one initiative today itself. We have 30 children from two schools with us to witness today's convocation. We assume that these children will feel inspired by this function to study hard and aspire to come on to this stage to accept medals and degrees one day. We are going to request you to hand over 30 tablets loaded with study materials to the two schools where these children study. We are preparing a plan to uplift the standards of the two schools and we intend to expand the ambit of our social outreach programme.

Hon'ble Vice President and Chancellor, Hon'ble Minister, and every nation builder, we need your continuing support and best wishes. We trust you will do your best for our growth and well being.

Thank you!

JAI HIND!