

The Chief Guest of the 14<sup>th</sup> Convocation Padmashree Dr. Srikumar Banerjee, Hon'ble Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India. Hon'ble Guardian Minister of Raigad and Minister for Water Resources, Government of Maharashtra, Shri. Sunilji Tatkare, Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri. Anantji Gite and Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly Shri. Bharatsheth Gogawale, Hon'ble members of the Executive Council, Academic Council and other Statutory Bodies, Invited Guests, Graduating students and their proud parents, the Faculty Members and the Non-teaching Staff of our University, Members of Press, Representatives of Electronic and Print Media, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Executive Council and the Academic Council of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University and my own behalf, I extend a very warm and cordial welcome to all of you on this auspicious occasion of the 14<sup>th</sup> Convocation of this University which is being blessed by the august presence of Padmashree Dr. Srikumar Banerjee who will deliver the Convocation Address. I am delighted to welcome you, Sir.

We are located in the vicinity of the great Raigad Fort which inspires every Maharashtrian. This University is situated very near to historic town, Mahad. All of us know that Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar led *Dalits* to fight for their rights and created history at *Chavdar Tale* in Mahad on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1927. But, many of you may not be aware that our Raigad District has produced a galaxy of social reformers like Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Mahamaopadhyay Datto Waman Potdar, Shri. Shivram Mahadeo Paranjape, Shri. Narayan Malhar Joshi and Shri. Waman Malhar Joshi. Our 14<sup>th</sup> Convocation is also blessed by the presence of Hon'ble Shri. Sunilji Tatkare, Minister of Water Resources. He is the son of this soil and always supported this University. I welcome you, Sir.

Lonere is such a beautiful place which provides just that little isolation from the hubbub of city life necessary to academic life and its pursuit of research and contemplation. The University has a sprawling campus of 468 acres. The University Master Plan is very ambitious, nicely conceived and prepared under the leadership of our first Vice-Chancellor Late Prof. V. R. Deshpande. It's my pleasure and proud privilege to announce for the information of everyone present here to witness this Convocation that, our Main Building which is the First Phase as per our Master Plan has got the "World Architecture Award" for the year 2010. You will be happy to note that out of total forty three nominations only three buildings were from India. All other nominated Buildings were from the countries like USA, China, Korea, Germany, Brazil, Mexico, etc. Out of three Buildings nominated from India, one is in New Delhi, another in Noida and the third one, our very own Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University at Lonere-Raigad. I request all of you to take a round through this monumental building. Our volunteers will guide you.

This University was established on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1989 by the Government of Maharashtra under the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University Act No. XXII, 1989. The University will celebrate its 22<sup>nd</sup> Foundation Day on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The University offers Eight Diploma, One Advanced Diploma, Eight B. Tech and Seven M. Tech Programs. The University also offers Ph. D. programs in the various disciplines of Science and Engineering and Technology. In this convocation, 7 Ph. D., 49 M. Tech, 479 B. Tech Degrees, 27 Advanced Diplomas and 401 Diplomas will be awarded.

The University has introduced “Choice Based Credit System” for all B. Tech courses from the Academic Year 2010-2011 which started in July 2010. The students admitted for First Year B. Tech Courses in this Academic Year will get the advantage of this system and the revised curriculum. The University has also started “Central Assessment Program” to evaluate the answer books of the students examined with the new curriculum. These students will be graded with “Relative Grading” system. These students will be awarded mark sheets with state-of-art security features. The University has started “Digitization” of all examination related records right from the year 1989. On completion of this project the students will be able to get their duplicate mark sheets, transcripts and all verification related work completed on-line through our web portal. The University has also introduced a compulsory course named “Basic Course in Human Rights” as per the recommendations of Maharashtra State Human Rights commission and the directives of Department of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra. I am proud to inform you that Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University is the first University in our state having introduced this course in Engineering Curriculum in response to the directions issued by the Government of Maharashtra on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

I must mention here that the Academic Council and the Executive Council of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University has taken a decision to award the bi-lingual degree and diploma certificates printed in English and Marathi. I am happy to inform all of you that we will be awarding these bi-lingual degree and diploma certificates to all the recipients in today's Convocation. It's my proud privilege to announce on this occasion that we are awarding the degree and diploma certificates with 17 security features printed with latest available state-of-art technology.

In order to ensure the holistic development of the students, the University makes all possible efforts by providing them ample opportunities to participate in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. The University also provides the transport facility to its faculty/staff/students for the industrial visits.

The University had been selected as the 'Network Institute' under TEQIP Phase-I, a World Bank funded Project of Government of India in the year 2004. The University has derived maximum benefits for the overall development of its faculty and staff. The Laboratories of all the Departments have been modernized with addition of state-of-art instruments and equipments. The University Library has been enriched with substantial addition of volumes and titles. Many of our faculty members have participated in international conferences held in countries like Italy, Czech-Republic, Canada, Singapore, China, Australia, Germany, United Kingdom and United States of America. The faculty members have reported their findings in the form of research papers and patents. During last three years, the faculty members have published about four hundred research papers and filed two Patents.

Being a state University, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University receives its funding from the Government of Maharashtra. The University has become eligible to get funding support from the University Grants Commission (UGC) under Section 12(B) of UGC Act. Thus, the University could send its proposal for the assistance in the form of Development and Merged Schemes Grants for the first time. I am happy to inform you that the University will get total funding of Rs. 9.72 Crores from UGC during Eleventh Plan Period up to March 2012. To assure the quality and maintain the standards of Technical Education, the University has formed its Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) as per the guidelines of UGC. The periodic Academic Audit will be strictly implemented for the current Academic Session 2010-2011.

The Vice-Chancellor has been nominated as a member of Board of Management of Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University by His Excellency the Governor of Maharashtra, Hon'ble Shri. K. Sankaranarayanan. He has also been nominated as a member of Skill Development Executive Committee of Government of Maharashtra. He delivered the Convocation Address at 21<sup>st</sup> Convocation of Shri Bhagubhai Mafatlal Polytechnic Mumbai on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010. He has also delivered prestigious Late Professor Jaikrishna Memorial Lecture at Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010. Dr. S. M. Pore of Department of Civil Engineering has been appointed as Technical Consultant for Sane Guruaji Rashtriya Smarak by Government of Maharashtra. Department of Computer Engineering has got a Consultancy Project on Software Auditing from Kolhapur Municipal Transport Corporation, Kolhapur. Dr. V. J. Bansod has reviewed two research papers for Journal of Porous Media and Transport in Porous Media in this Academic Year.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University has got Direct Central Assistance worth Rs. 60 Lakhs under various schemes during this Academic Year. I am happy to put on record the efforts taken by our Faculty Members to fetch these grants. Dr. Y. S. Mahajan of Department of Chemical Engineering has got a Major Research Project grant of Rs. 9.42 Lakhs from University Grants Commission, New Delhi. Dr. Y. S. Mahajan and Dr. V. S. Sathe of Department of Chemical Engineering have got Research Grant of Rs. 7.41 Lakhs from

ONGC Energy Centre. Dr. A. R. Chavan of Department of Chemical Engineering has got a grant of Rs. 20 Lakhs under FIST from Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. Dr. V. G. Sargade of Department of Mechanical Engineering has got the grant of Rs. 16.9 Lakhs from Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India under Fast Track Scheme. Dr. S. L. Nalbalwar of Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering has got Major Research Project grant worth Rs. 6 Lakhs from University Grants Commission, New Delhi.

The University conducted one month Training Program for 49 Graduate Engineer Trainees recruited by Larson and Toubro Limited., Baroda. The Institute of Petrochemical Engineering is conducting an in-house Training Program for Sandoz at Mahad MIDC. Dr. Neeraj Agrawal and his students received prestigious Bry-Air Award. Prof. S. V. Khobragade has received "ISTE Best Teacher Award" of Maharashtra Goa Section for the year 2010. Dr. S. L. Nalbalwar of Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering has chaired a session at IEEE International Conference on Bio-Medical Engineering held at Kuala-Lumpur, Malaysia.

This year also, our Faculty Members presented their research papers at various International Conferences abroad. Dr. Neeraj Agrawal presented his paper in Sydney, Australia, Prof. S. M. Jadhav presented his paper in Seoul, South Korea, Prof. B. F. Jogi presented his paper in Canada, and Prof. A. W. Kiwelekar presented his paper in Denmark.

Over the years, the University has established Academic Linkages with the nearby Industries and Institutes. The University has collaboration with Institutes like Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), Mumbai, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, College of Engineering (CoE), Pune and Industries like Larson and Toubro, Oracle Corporation and ION Exchange Limited. The University is member of the "Association of Indian Universities" and the "Association of Commonwealth Universities".

I must mention here and would like to invite your attention to the "Vartak Committee Report" of 1981 which formed the basis for the establishment of this University. It is clearly mentioned in this Report that, "The University must be so conceived and structured that it becomes a catalytic agent for rapid socio-economic transformation of the Konkan region. The new University must not create new alienated individuals in society; rather it must give such education and skills as would enable its graduates to play effective leadership in the villages from where they come and thus bring about accelerated growth at the grass-root level. The aim of the University must be to reach the common man and help him change his little world and integrate it with the larger and faster moving world of modern science and technology. The University must, therefore, be of a non-traditional type in the sense that it must offer curricular program directly aiming at bringing about socio-economic change in the broadest possible terms and also in the sense that the extension education and

services would be a far more important aspect of its functioning than is the case in a traditional University. It should not confine itself to the degree and post-graduate levels it should apply itself consciously to the problems of developing one to two year courses which would satisfy felt needs or equip young and ambitious people to explore the possibilities of developing skills to get employment opportunity in a new industrial activity coming up in the region”.

Our Act incorporates the central idea envisaged in the “Vartak Committee Report” in the following words, the “extension, education and service” means educational activities undertaken by the University, other than regular training activities for the purpose of transfer of technology to the backward areas of the state and includes the work which may be undertaken by the University for organizing villagers or group of families for developmental activities and making them self-reliant by ensuring that necessary service assistance and help are made available to them from the concerned quarters including the Government Departments and various corporations established by the State Government.

Keeping in mind the above mandate, the University started with a unique certificate course on Nursing in collaboration with the Association of Medical Consultants, Raigad Chapter as a part of extension service. The trained women find a respectable job in nearby hospitals, nursing homes and private clinics. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University has successfully implemented a scheme of Community Polytechnic of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India since 1993 which continued up to 2007. The University has conducted a three year certificate level specialized courses in Electrical and Mechanical Technology for JSW Energy (Ratnagiri) Limited. Forty five candidates selected by the industry from the nearby region have been successfully trained for direct recruitment through a tailor-made course by the University. All these candidates are now employed and working in JSW Energy Limited. The University can take up such assignments in future for other major industries coming up in Konkan region.

In 2010, MHRD again launched a scheme called Community Development through Polytechnic under National Skill Development Mission. Our University immediately started its implementation through its Polytechnic wing, the Institute of Petrochemical Engineering. It has already started Electrician, Welding and FRP item making training programs in its campus and also started two extension centers last year and added four more this year. Last year, one center started its working at Bapusaheb Limaye Ashram Shala at Vavlioli near Pali (Sudhagad). Another one is working at Krishi Tantra Vidyalaya Nandgaon-Taloshi (Mahad) since April 2010. We have decided the target to train about 400 rural youth per year under this scheme of Government of India. We are committed to make all possible efforts to follow the new education policy of Government of India as announced by the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri. Kapil Sibal. The policy comprising of three

issues, first of access means expansion, second of equity means inclusion and the third of quality means excellence. We have added four more centers this year at K. S. Gorivale School, Tise (Mangaon), R. P. Divekar High School, Dandguri (Shrivardhan), SHARE Social Institute at Rajivali and Kumbhe-Shivthar (Mahad).

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti is celebrated every year and everyone in the University considers 14<sup>th</sup> April being the most auspicious day for all of us in this University. This year also it will be celebrated with greater enthusiasm in the University Campus. The Eighteenth Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture will be delivered by an eminent speaker. An exhibition on life of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar will be organized by the University. An innovative event will also be organized on this occasion wherein large number of students will participate in "18 Hours Study Program" to pay respects to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in a novel way.

This is the 14<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the University. The First Convocation of the University was held in May 1997 and was presided over by the then Governor of the State and Chancellor of the University Hon'ble Dr. P. C. Alexander. During last 13 convocations great educationists and scientists delivered the Convocation Address. Prof V. G. Bhide, Dr. Rame Gowda, Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, Dr. Suhas Sukhatme, Dr. R. Natarajan, Dr. Arun Nigvekar, Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar, Dr. Damodar Acharya, Dr. B. S. Sonde, Dr. Ashok Mishra, Dr. Swaminathan Sivaram and Dr. Sanjay Dhande were the Chief Guests for earlier Convocations.

Today is our 14<sup>th</sup> Convocation and we are fortunate to have with us Padmashree Dr. Srikumar Banerjee, Hon'ble Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, as Chief Guest who will deliver the Convocation Address.

I congratulate all the recipients of various degrees and diplomas of the University and pray for their success.

Jai Hind!

Jai Maharashtra!!

## **Introduction of the Chief Guest**

It's a great moment for me to formally introduce our Chief Guest Padmashree Dr. Srikumar Banerjee to the dignitaries on dais and to everyone present here to witness this Convocation.

Dr. Srikumar Banerjee joined Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai in 1967 after obtaining B. Tech in Metallurgical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur. He also obtained Ph. D. from IIT, Kharagpur while working in BARC. As Director, BARC, during 2004-2010 he provided leadership in the development of Advanced Reactor Technology, Fuel Cycle Technology and Strategic Programmes.

Presently, Dr. Banerjee is Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy. He is one of the leading experts in materials science and technology and made outstanding contributions to many materials related areas, basic as well as application oriented. His comprehensive work on physical metallurgy of zirconium alloys and radiation induced order-disorder transition in alloys are widely quoted in scientific literature. His work has also provided a basis for developing a novel fabrication schedule for the pressure tubes used in the Indian Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs).

Dr. Banerjee is a recipient of many national and international awards and honours. National awards include Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Young Scientist Medal (1976), National Metallurgists' Day Award (1981), Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize in Engg. Sciences (1989), Materials Research Society of India (MRSI) Medal (1990), G. D. Birla Gold Medal of The Indian Institute of Metals (IIM) (1997), Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Prize for Materials Science (2001), MRSI-Superconductivity and Materials Science Prize (2003), Indian Nuclear Society (INS) Award (2003), Padmashree (2005), MRSI Distinguished Materials Scientist of the Year Award (2008) and Indian Science Congress Association's Excellence in Science and Technology Award (2010). Notable among the international awards are Acta Metallurgica Outstanding Paper Award (1984) and Alexander von Humboldt Research Award (2004).

Dr. Banerjee had professional interactions with several research groups in India and abroad and has held some visiting positions overseas, such as the University of Sussex, Brighton, UK (as senior visiting Fellow), Max-Planck Institut fuer Metalforschung – Institut fuer Physik, Stuttgart and Forschungszeutrum, Juelich, Germany (as Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Fellow and Awardee), University of Cincinnati and the Ohio State University, USA (as visiting faculty).

Dr.Banerjee is a Fellow of Indian Academy of Sciences, Indian National Science Academy, National Academy of Sciences India, Indian National Academy of Engineering and Third World Academy of Sciences.