

Thiru A.C. Shanmugam, Founder-Chancellor, Dr.M.G.R Educational and Research Institute University, Thiru M. Mohan Babu, Actor, Producer, Director & Philanthropist, Thiru S. Singha Roy, Scientist, Thiru A.C.S. Arunkumar, President, Prof. R.M. Vasagam, Chancellor, Thiru A. Ravikumar, Secretary, Dr.K. Meer Mustafa Hussain, Vice-Chancellor, and Dr.C.B. Palanivelu, Registrar, Dr.M.G.R. Educational and Research Institute University, Faculty, Staff, Students, Distinguished Invitees, and Friends from Media.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to participate in the 26th Convocation of the Dr.M.G.R. Educational and Research Institute University and address this distinguished gathering and students here today.

Thiru M. Mohan Babu is a versatile and renowned Actor, an Educationist, a Parliamentarian, a Philanthropist and a Padma Shri Awardee. Thiru M. Mohan Babu with his matchless dialogue delivery has brought a new genre to Telugu film industry. He has played various roles in his career spanning four decades and has won the heart of the rasikas and even today he continues to enthrall every one by his acting. It is a pleasure to present Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa) to Shri Mohan Babu for his significant contribution to the Telugu Film Industry.

I am happy to present the Honorary Degree, Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) to Thiru S. Singha Roy, who is an outstanding scientist, Director, Technical - Light Water Reactor in National Power Corporation of India Ltd. for his distinguished contribution in the field of Nuclear Power.

A Convocation is a memorable occasion for the students. For the University and colleges it is not only a matter of rejoice on the achievements made, but also an occasion to turn back and learn from the hurdles crossed and to plan for the future to attain excellence in education.

By 2020 we will be most youth full nation in the world, with an average age of 29 years, which is 8 years younger than the average age of an American or a Chinese. This is a demographic dividend for Indians. If we do not educate youth it will be a disaster. Taking advantage of demographics and channelizing the enormous youth power in right direction is the need of the hour. This rests with educational institutions and universities. This University is doing extraordinary work. I congratulate Thiru A.C.Shanmugam and others.

I appeal to the Faculty and Members of educational institutions and Universities to create curiosity and promote scientific temper among the students. The nation needs more and more scientists and researchers. As knowledge providers, the educational institutions and universities should establish academic linkage by signing MOUs and organizing education exchange programmes with the Colleges and Universities across the globe. There is immense potential for India in the field of Nano-technology, Bio-technology and Bio-engineering to transform herself into a global R&D platform. I am sure the higher

educational institutions and universities will provide education on par with international standards.

Dear Young Graduates

You are lucky that you are stepping out when Indian economy is growing and the Indian Products are reaching the global market. Thanks to the initiatives taken by our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, today lot of opportunities are opening up in business and industry. Utilize the opportunities ahead of you. Bring laurels to the state and the nation.

Dear young friends,

India is known for its rich culture and tradition. You should be our nation's Cultural Ambassadors. Wherever you are, carry forward the rich legacy of our nation.

Mathematician Aryabhatta was the first person to create a symbol for zero and it was through his efforts that mathematical operations like addition and subtraction started using the digit, zero. It means, we gave the concept of zero to the world.

Albert Einstein had famously said, **“We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made.”**

Bhaskaracharya, who lived at Patnadevi near Jalgaon in his treatise Surya Siddhanta, calculated the time taken for the earth to orbit the sun to nine decimal places (365.258756484 days).

Sushruta Samhita is considered to be one of the most comprehensive textbooks on ancient surgery. Charaka authored the Charaka Samhita, on the ancient science of Ayurveda. That was our leadership in scientific pursuits and innovation. I am recalling this proud past for the benefit of the youngsters who are present amidst us.

Somehow, we lost our leadership in many areas during the long spell of foreign domination. The education system introduced by Lord Macaulay caused great damage to our indigenous education system which promoted the spirit of enquiry and innovation. You have to act as a bridge between our future generation and glorious past.

Most people think that it is the intellect which makes one a great person. It is not so. It is intellect coupled with character that makes one great. Enhance your knowledge, learn to experience the joy of team work, always be guided by higher values and give back to the society.

“Rivers do not drink their own water.

Trees do not eat their own fruit.

Clouds do not swallow their own rain.

What great ones have is always for the benefit of others.” (Unquote)

I think human life is incomplete if there is no aspect of giving to one's personality. 'Giving back to society' is a Samskar and I do feel that we must imbibe this Samskar on every child, every student and every youth.

I wish you all success. My greetings to you all. Jai Hind. Jai Tamil Nadu.