

Vice-Chancellor's Report

Hon'ble Chief Guest of today's the 19th Convocation of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Padmabhushan Prof. J. B. Joshi, former Director of Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT) and Homi Bhabha Professor, Homi Bhabha National Institute, Hon'ble Minister of Higher and Technical Education, School Education, Medical Education, Sports and Youth Welfare, Marathi Bhasha and Cultural Affairs Shri. Vinodji Tawde, Hon'ble Guardian Minister of Raigad and Minister for Housing, Mining and Labour, Shri. Prakashji Mehta, Hon'ble Minister of State for Higher and Technical Education and Housing Shri Ravindra Waykar, Hon'ble members of the Executive Council, the 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 the behalf of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, I extend a very warm and cordial welcome to all of you on this 19th Convocation of this University. I am delighted to welcome you all.

The district of Raigad is blessed with historical legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, both role models to the community. This place has also seen stalwarts such as Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Mahamahopadhyay Datto Waman Potdar, Shri Shivram Mahadeo Paranjape, Shri Narayan Malhar Joshi, Shri Waman Malhar Joshi, Shri. Pandurang Shastri Athavale and Shri. Nanasahab Dharmadhikari. We are at the foot of the Raigad, the seat of historical power of Maharashtra, that provides an environment, ideal and conducive for nurturing academic progress and pursuit of knowledge. This University was established on 5th May 1989 by the Government of Maharashtra under the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University Act No. XXII, 1989. We celebrated the Silver Jubilee Year in 2014.

1st March 2016 is another milestone now in the history of this university, when with the appointment of yours truly, the state Government has declared this university as State Technical University to which the engineering & Technology, Pharmacy, Architecture and Hotel Management and Catering Technology Institutes from the State shall get affiliated over the next few years. The University is committed to provide guidance and directions in quality technical education, research and development to meet the needs of industry, businesses, and the society, at large. The benefits of the research and education at the University has to flow to the eco-system in its surrounding.

At present, the University administers 8 UG and 06 PG programs. It also has 08 PhD programs. There are 2733 students on the campus. The University has long introduced "Choice Based Credit System" for all B. Tech courses. The University was first University in the state to introduce a compulsory "Basic Course in Human Rights" as per the recommendations of Maharashtra State Human Rights commission.

In this convocation, 10 Ph.Ds, 99 M. Techs, 680 B. Tech Degrees, 17 Advance Diplomas and 429 Diplomas will be awarded. This year also saw 22 new PhD students entering into the University and we hope to increase this number in years to come. In the last five years the University has produced 357 papers in international Journals and conferences, has obtained one international patent, one national patent and applied for more. The average H index of the University is 15. Considering that the research programs started late in the University, just 10 years ago, this number is matching general expectation.

Our graduates and faculty face several odds and difficulties of frequent power cut-offs, inadequate hostel facility, remoteness of location, lack of amenities such as hospital and school, delays in releasing funds and in appointments and promotions. There are challenges in attracting and retaining talented faculty, competition from private universities who are well endowed. But these odds also provide us opportunities of expansion in postgraduate education, research and innovation; industrial collaborations for R&D projects, consultancy, and continuing education for employees and public-private partnership.

The faculty members have continued their research after obtaining their Ph.D. degrees. The number of students carrying out doctoral research is increasing and so is the the externally funded research projects coupled with the research output in terms of papers published in the peer refereed Journals. In the last few years, the faculty members have started working with final year students promoting undergraduate research. This has led to presentation of papers in National or international conferences.

Close to 40% students are girls despite remote location and inadequate infrastructure. Most students come with prior knowledge of basic programing. Majority of students admitted to MTech programs are GATE qualified. Some of the departments have adopted the e-learning approach and use of open source platform. Access to MOOC and NPTEL is, therefore, is accepted in the learning process. The evaluation process is becoming increasingly transparent and will become soon completely e-governed.

The University strives to provide best of the education to the students of the University, despite the odds and disadvantage of being located at a remote place. The struggles of the pioneering efforts of late Prof. V. R. Deshpande and legacy of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar are kept in mind to put in efforts to develop this university as much as humanly possible.

Wi-Fi internet connectivity is available in academic complex and internet facility in the entire campus is provided with fiber optic cables as backbone. We plan to augment this facility soon for faster connectivity. In the age of 4G we cannot remain isolated from developments elsewhere.

We had been receiving funds under Technical Education Quality Improvement Program of MHRD, since 2004 in Phase I and since 2012 in Phase-II. In both these phases, we received substantial funding and the university derived maximum benefits from this support through the State. TEQIP II, which is now arriving at the end of its period on 1st October 2016, has seen several activities, including travel of faculty and students to different education Institutes, nationally & internationally good number of research papers and increasing number of Ph.Ds. Many laboratory facilities have been created under TEQIP-II in all departments. Under TEQIP II, the university provided 19 Teaching assistantships, 22 Research Assistants. As a result, the university has been able to make significant progress. The university is expected to get additional grant of Rs. 5 crores over and above the original grant of Rs. 12.5 crores. Although, the amount is not large, the impact of these developments will be visible in coming years.

The university has received recognition under 12(B) of UGC Act and has started receiving development grants from UGC. Besides, the university has been accredited by NAAC with Grade B. It is mandatory for the university to put in place Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC). Accordingly, IQAC has been constituted and the first meeting of this cell has been held. The cell has started functioning regularly. IQAC has chalked out a schedule for Academic Audit. The audit is going to be carried out by a team of external experts. This exercise will be over by before the end of the academic year.

ISO audit team visited the university during this month and carried out the ISO audit. The University is in the process of complying with the non-conformities so that the university receives ISO Certificate soon. A

comprehensive proposal has been submitted for receiving RUSA grants under 8 heads. We expect to get funding under Infrastructure grant and funds for Research and Innovation.

The University has won the World Education Award for Collating Global Practices in Education for Deploying an Online PhD Academic Management & Online PhD Thesis Processing System to make research programmes expedient and effective at the World Education Summit in Dubai on Feb 7-8, 2016 where the Dr Yogesh Patil, Controller of Examinations, represented the University.

The University was also chosen for the Leaders Speak Education Summit Award 2015 in the Best in-house ERP Solution Category for Higher Education for Online Academic Management and Online PhD Thesis Processing, held at Royal Plaza, New Delhi on December 4, 2015.

The University has consistently declared all its results for Summer and Winter Examinations in a stipulated Time period of 30 days. The University Signed MoU with CDSL (Central Depository Services Limited) for Dematting of Degrees on Jan 12, 2016. In a span of 2 to 3 years the entire Degrees and Grade sheets of the University will be available in Demat format for verification purpose. The CDSL's National Academic Depository (C-NAD) has offered to provide a system of creating in electronic form and making available for verification the award details of students who have acquired educational qualification on passing the examinations conducted by the Institutions and services related thereto. The MoU was signed by Controller of Examinations and Cyrus Khambatta, Executive Vice President of CDSL.

The University has implemented most of the reforms suggested by Agrawal Committee for Examinations. As per the initiative by MHRD, IITM is conducting online live-lectures program, Quality Enhancement in Engineering Education (QEEE). Currently QEEE Phase-V is going on from January 2016. The university has registered for total 26 theory subjects in different disciplines of Engineering and one Lab in this phase. Every subject spans over three or four sessions and each session is of two hours. This helps the university to cope-up with crunch of faculty.

The Chemical Engineering Department has published 45 papers and has collaboration with ICT under TEQIP for innovation products and several industries such as, ONGC, Excel Industries Ltd., Privi Organics Ltd., and Rhodia Specialty Chemicals India Ltd., for skill development of their employees. The Department has established good rapport with industries situated in MIDC areas of Lote Parshuram, Mahad, Roha, Patalganga and Tarapur.

Currently, Department of Electronics and Telecommunication, keeping in line with the market trend, has the largest intake of 120 UG per year and 18 PG per year. The department is poised to increase the PG programs and PhDs in coming year. The Department is taking efforts to improve employability of its graduates and interaction with industries to improve infrastructure. Dr. Nalbalwar of the Department has a project supported by AICTE on optimization of signal processing in hearing aids. He has been coopted as member of BoS in VIIT, Pune and the BoS of University of Pune. This year 30 students have cleared GATE and 48 students and faculty members have attended workshops at IIT-B. The faculty and students of the department have produced 30 papers, conducted 5 training programs. Dr. Brijesh Iyer of the Department received the research fellowship of Indian National Academy of Engineering for the year 2015-2016.

Dr.B.F.Jogi and Dr. R.S. Paweade of Mechanical Engg Dept Organized one week workshop under TEQIP II on “Developments in Welding Technology”, during March 08-12, 2016, which was attended by participants from all over Maharashtra and Industries. Two companies Ador Pvt. Ltd. Pune and Fronius Pvt. Ltd. Chakan, provided practical training to the participants.

Prof. Somesh Hingmire of Instrumentation engineering, was a member of committee for International Conference on Industrial Instrumentation And Control (ICIC –2015) of Indo US Collaboration for Engineering Education at Govt. College of Engineering Pune during 28-30 May,2015.

Dr. N. Agrawal was recognized for outstanding contribution by Applied Thermal Engineering, of ELSEVIER. He also organized two FDP events on Recent Trends in Energy Research during 7 - 11 December 2015 and another one on Safety Measures in Laboratories during 25 - 29 February 2016.

Prof. B. C.Kharbas has completed PhD. in Electrical Engineering from Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur, on *“Some Investigation on Transmission Cost Allocations and Enhanced Revenue Reconciliation in Open Access of Transmission Network.”* His thesis has been selected for presentation at national level in POSOCO Power System award under research category in power system in the academic year 2015-16. He also presented his research work at an industrial interface meet of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) and IITD. organization.

Dr. Amit P. Shesh, has been nominated on the panel of YCMOU, Nashik as the expert to design their UG and PG study materials, and on the Examination Panel at RIT, Islampur

The Computer Engineering department has produced 24 papers and developed collaboration with Persistent System Pvt. Ltd., and Deloitte. The B. Tech. graduates of the department are employed by industries such as IBM/ Google/ Oracle/ TCS/ Cognizant, NITs/ GCoE and many private institutes. The department has been shifted to newly created premises in the building after creating four new undergraduate, and one post-graduate Research laboratories. Prof. A W Kiwelekar presented a paper in the 10th European Conference on Software Architecture (ECSA 2015) held in Dubrovink, Croatia, while research scholars Hansraj Wankhede and Swanand Navandar presented papers in the doctoral consortium of Fourth International Conference on Learning and Teaching in Computing and Engineering.(LaTiCE 2016) at IIT Bombay from 31st March-3rd April 2016.

Dr. N. S. Lingayat represented India in the *International Conference on TVET Skills Development for Poverty Alleviation, Entrepreneurship, and Employability* and regional program on *Entrepreneurship Development* in TVET (International Program for countries in the Asia-Pacific Region) organized by Colombo Plan Staff College,Manila, PhilippinesJune 2015.

Dr. N. S. Lingayat and his team successfully implemented the Energy Efficiency Project sponsored by Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA). Electricity bill amount of 4.00 Lac has been saved in the past eight months. The project has received 8th India Power Award by Council of Power Utilities, New Delhi on Nov 6, 2015 and 10th Energy Conservation Award by Maharashtra Energy Development Agency, Pune on February 18, 2016

A National-level Techfest “CYNOSURE” is arranged every year in the University and it is attended by teams coming from all over India. Under this activity, various technical events are organized such as paper presentation, model making, etc from all the departments. Our students also participated in ‘Avishkar’, a State-level innovation and research competition.

The Department of Physics, has two PhDs scholars with two faculty qualified for guiding PhD while other three faculty members are encouraged to pursue PhD. The department has Nano-Science Lab and collaborates with IIT-B and Mumbai University. The department has published 22 papers in international journals, 20 conference papers in National conferences and 10 in international conferences. The faculty of the department have made visits to USA, Italy, Japan, Singapore, Germany, UK, France, Switzerland, Australia, and New Zealand. The Department faculty is also invited as visiting faculty by Gombe state University, Nigeria and as visiting faculty in Mumbai University and SRTM University Nanded.

The University conducted 3-year modular courses in Mechanical and Electrical Technology successfully for the project affected persons deputed by JSW Ratnagiri. Three orientation programmes of one month duration for graduate trainees of L & T, Baroda have been organized successfully by the University. In pursuit of academic excellence, the University awards fellowships, prizes etc. on regular basis to outstanding students. Recently, Posco TJ Park Foundation, South Korea, has signed a MoU with the University for offering fellowships to 10 students of the university.

Chemical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering Departments of the University have signed a MoU with ICT under TEQIP – II for seven innovative research projects under innovation grant from MHRD. We are expecting very good academic output in the form of patents and technology transfer.

Sports have been an integral part of the human development. Hon. Governor, Maharashtra State has started the Krida Mahotsav as a Sports Promoting activity among all the state Universities of Maharashtra. University students regularly participate in sports activities at state and national levels. Presently, the sports infrastructure is not up to the mark. In view of this, it proposed to procure sports equipments in near future. Ms. Manasi Gawde of Department of Information Technology, has brought several laurels to the University. She has won 9 gold medals and 3 silver medals for swimming and water polo at National level. She was awarded the Raigad Bhushan award for her achievements. Her achievements become all the more important when the University does not have the facilities for the sports.

With the new status of the affiliating Technical University of the state, the University is poised to take a major leap in its activities in near future. We are at the drawing board again to draw newer plans and to set up the model for Technical education in the State of Maharashtra. The jurisdiction of this university spans now the entire state and soon the regional and sub regional Centres shall come in existence. We are in the process establishing the formats of affiliation and statutes for governance.

The administration and faculty of the University are preparing a strategic development plan and I hope that the plan will be supported by the Government for implementation of the action plan to convert this University as a full fledged State University with all facilities and manpower. We shall be expanding facilities for post-graduate education by increasing intake capacity of existing programmes on immediate basis and by starting new PG programmes at a later stage. The emphasis will shift to research and innovation with several interdisciplinary post-graduate schools and Research and Innovation Centres. The

doctoral research will be increased many-fold by giving attractive fellowships to Ph.D students. The interaction with industry shall be enhanced by taking sponsored research projects from industry leading to innovation in products and services. In five years' time we hope to build a Technology Business Incubation Center on the campus. We will take up problems faced by the industry either through consultancy or problem-solving projects from industry.

The University shall be introducing entrepreneurship development programmes to motivate students to become entrepreneurs and provide jobs rather than searching for job. Academic audit will be integral part of the activities with training programmes and continuing education programmes for industry and academia from Engineering colleges. We plan to introduce, vocational programs, part-time and joint M. Tech programmes, five-year integrated M. Tech programme on the lines of IITs..