

41st ANNUAL CONVOCATION

“Students are the future of our nation. Students should live with self esteem and should be working for the welfare of our nation. It is the moral responsibility of students to pay back to society”, expressed by the Governor of Punjab and Chancellor of the University, His Excellency Prof. Kaptan Singh Solanki while presiding over the 41st Annual Convocation of the Guru Nanak Dev University. Governor Prof. Solanki awarded Doctor of Literature (Honoris Causa) degrees upon Dr. Rattan Singh Jaggi, Life Fellow, Punjabi University, Patiala and Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) degree upon Dr. Bernhard Peter Jakob Blümich, Professor and Chair of Macromolecular Chemistry, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A.S. Brar welcomed the Chief Guest and other dignitaries while Prof. Paramjit Singh, Dean (Academic Affairs) presented vote of thanks on this occasion. Prof. Sharanjit Singh Dhillon, Registrar coordinated the convocation. Vice-Chancellor honoured Governor Prof. Solanki, Dr. Jaggi and Prof. Blümich with University memento.

About 700 degrees and medals in various disciplines including Ph.D., M.Phil., MBA, M.Tech., MCA, LL.M., M.Lib., MBE., M.Com., M.Sc., M.A., B.Tech., B.Sc., BCA, LL.B., B.Lib., etc. were awarded on this Convocation. Governor of Punjab and Chancellor gave away the Ph.D., M.Phil. and Post-Graduate degrees while the Vice-Chancellor conferred Under-Graduate degrees to the students.

Prof. Solanki said that our universities have an enormous responsibility for building the Nation through the enrichment of higher education system and it is, therefore, imperative that there is an ideal integration of teaching, research, work experience and community development to enhance professional competence of our students to enable them to contribute to the Nation. While congratulating the students who received the degrees in the Convocation, Prof. Solanki appreciated the role of the faculty and the University for their contribution in shaping the career of students and promoting the interests of the society.

The Governor said that we must utilize all resources available at our disposal to explore and develop the potential of our students by enriching their abilities through innovative programmes. It is very important to focus on character building and to inculcate amongst the youth, the values of compassion, harmonious living and respect for elders. Our educational institutions, therefore, should be the place where students learn and practice discipline, tolerance and balanced reasoning, he added.

Prof. Solanki said that the knowledge is limitless which can help in all area of human activities. He said nothing is as effective and powerful as knowledge can be. He said that educational institutions and universities can play a very important role in discovering new knowledge and new technologies. The Chancellor called upon academicians, educationists and intellectuals to develop action-oriented and progressive programmes, to encourage youth to achieve academic brilliance and take the Nation forward on the fast track of growth and development.

Prof. Solanki said that he strongly believes that apart from the curriculum based Education System, inculcating moral and spiritual values into our future generations is also very essential. He exhorted the students

that in this competitive age, focus should be on enhancing capabilities and confidence to achieve excellence through commitment, vision, determination and hard work.

While delivering his convocation address, Dr. Jaggi said that all the graduating students should contribute for the construction of a healthy society. He said that this University named after a great Guru has always given the message of equality, gender equality and universality. He spoke of the teachings of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji and how it advocates the human values.

Prof. Blümich said that education is the key in today's world which, when used wisely, can give the holder a good life and enable him or her to do well to others. At universities we exercise not only the generation, dissemination and intake of knowledge but we also train the analytical thinking in the generation of knowledge. It is that knowledge that enables us to weigh the wealth of information we are being given. He said that the German educational system used to be top down. But it is no longer so. Especially over the last ten years, life at German universities has changed considerably. Dr. Jaggi and Prof. Blümich thanked the University for honoring them with Honoris Causa degrees. They also expressed their gratitude in receiving these degrees as this University is named after a great Saint, Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Prof. Brar in his welcome address said that this University is among the best universities of the country in academics, sports and cultural activities. He said that after having earned the coveted titles like UPE and CPEPA, Guru Nanak Dev University does it again and earns high score of 3.51 from NAAC. With this grade, Guru Nanak Dev University is the only university in the north western India that has gone into 3rd cycle of accreditation and has scored this high rating and in this context has become the third best university in the country in the third cycle. We are also holders of an enviable position in sports by winning the prestigious Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy for record number of times. In cultural activities, we have won the North Zone Inter-University Cultural Trophy in 2014-15 in the All India Inter-University Youth Festival organized by the AIU, he said