

CONVOCATION ADDRESS

by

Shri Amit Khare, I.A.S.

**Secretary, Department of Higher Education
Ministry of Education, Govt. of India**



XXXIX CONVOCATION

22nd January, 2021

**DAYALBAGH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE
(Deemed to be University)
DAYALBAGH, AGRA**

**Address on the occasion of 39th Convocation of
Dayalbagh Educational Institution**

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- Revered Prof P.S. Satsangi Sahab, Chairman, Advisory Committee on Education, Dayalbagh Educational Institutions,
- Respected Rani Sahiba,
- President of the Institute Dr Vijai Kumar,
- Prof. Prem Kalra, Director, Dayalbagh Educational Institute,
- Faculty Members and Staff of DEI,
- Members of the Dayalbagh family.
- Students and their guardians.

It is indeed my pleasure to be with all of you today at Dayalbagh on this important occasion of Convocation.

I had heard a lot about Dayalbagh Institute earlier but my knowledge regarding Dayalbagh Institution was amplified a few years ago when I came to know that Prof. Prem Kalra, the then Director of IIT Jodhpur was joining Dayalbagh Educational Institute as its Director. As I happened to be a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of HRD at that time and Prof. Kalra was well known for his contribution in establishing the IIT Jodhpur in its formative years, so, I was a bit curious that instead of a second term as a Director either of IIT Jodhpur or some other institution under the Ministry, Prof. Kalra had decided to join Dayalbagh Educational Institution. On one occasion I asked this personal question to Prof. Kalra, who then informed me that Dayalbagh is a unique institution that brings education and values together something which we have talked about in the National Education Policy 2020 and this why he wants to contribute to the society in a novel manner. In a way, Dayalbagh Educational Institution in its philosophy and vision has been much ahead of times in its thinking of the day, and many of the ideas of National Education Policy 2020 are already enshrined in the ethos of DEI. My visit to this unique wonder, like no other,

where modern technologies have been aptly built on strong foundations of our own Indian culture, tradition and values, will remain etched in my memory for life. It was these rich traditions and heritage that guided us as a civilization for centuries, making India the most sought-after seat of higher learning. The pursuit of knowledge (Jnan), wisdom (Pragyaa), and truth (Satya) was always considered in Indian thought and philosophy as the highest human goal. The aim of education in ancient India was not just the acquisition of knowledge as preparation for life in this world, or life beyond schooling, but for the complete realization and liberation of the self. The New Education Policy is trying to restore that glory and purpose of education. I am glad that it is already being practiced in DEI.

Dear Class of 2020! I must say that your batch, and your contemporary batches the world over, are a unique lot! You are tied together by a unique experience. You saw how a tiny virus lay siege to all established orders and norms the world over. The pandemic may have really shaken you all, since this was the last year of your studies, before

you stepped out into the world. Some of you may even have suffered personal loss. Yet you all have been really brave all these months. I am sure, in your own ways, you would have contributed to the mankind's efforts to regain control of life and build up new norms. You have been through a lot, but, I am sure, this experience would have given you a fresh perspective to life, and prepared you better for facing its vagaries in future.

This is also a remarkable time, an opportune moment, to be a young Indian today. India has emerged in the world arena as one of the most confident nations. Indians are held in very high regard today and the world has a lot of expectations from us. You can see this in India's rapidly growing presence in the international media space in recent times. The world today is sitting up to take note of everything that India does, because the global economy has a lot of its hopes pinned on India. The Covid 19 crisis has further highlighted the wisdom and sagacity of our society, the efficiency of our scientific and medical systems, the strength of our economy and the vibrancy of our democracy. Just last week the IMF Chief Kristalina Georgieva praised

India for the decisive steps taken to deal with Covid 19 pandemic.

As you, each one of you, embark upon your journey through life today, you carry this legacy, this brand of being a proud Indian. While this brand gives you a position of privilege in the world, it also bestows upon you the special responsibility of leading and guiding changes in your respective sectors, changes that make the world a better place for everyone. India's journey from being a third world, fledgling democracy to this position of power and eminence is the result of the toil and dedicated contribution of every section of society. The role of the educated people in any sector has been especially significant because they have guided and led this change in various capacities. Today you are joining this rank of educated intellectuals, the young enlightened Indians who will lead the world.

You are fortunate to have studied in a prestigious institution like Dayalbagh Educational Institute that beautifully merges Indian value systems with a modern, futuristic vision. I am very happy to note that the institution has been imparting multidisciplinary education in subjects as

diverse as Quantum Computing to Textile Designing to Music , and that its Vision 2031 also supports the same principles that have been recommended by the National Education Policy 2020. There is focus on value based quality education, inclusivity, multidisciplinary, research, use of ICT – all of which align well with the NEP 2020. DEI has an extensive and dynamic Skilling education programme for both boys and girls, which again aligns well with the NEP 2020. I was also interested to note the emphasis given in both Dayalbagh and DEI to the development of a ‘health-care habitat’, through an environment friendly culture of e-mobility, use of renewable energy and pollution control through regular water misting.

As alumni of this prestigious institution, you are now going out into the world not only to fulfill your own aspirations but also the aspirations of this country and of your fellow countrymen like us, who look towards you with a lot of hope. We all have tremendous confidence in your abilities as future leaders in your respective sectors. It is this confidence that fuels our dreams for country’s missions like *Start Up India, Skill India, Make in*

India- Make for the World and Atma Nirbhar Bharat. You should emerge not as ‘job seekers’ but as ‘job givers’ to promote the individual capability of each student, teach them to think, equip them with the skills required to face the 21st century and global leaders – while imparting values rooted in Indian culture.

You are also fortunate to have studied – or even being brought up – in the city of Agra. This city has history as well as a vibrant present. The Taj Mahal draws a giant share of foreign tourists to the city. It is also a thriving centre for small scale industries like leather, marble inlay work and many others.

Agra is a crucible for a lot of learning which I am sure you have imbibed during the years spent here. The city can also be a springboard now, from where you take a leap towards your future endeavours. But while you do this, I will also remind you to pause for a bit and think of lots of young people in the country and in the world, who have been less fortunate than you, young people who are deprived of the benefits that a good education provides. I would implore you to remember that it is

you who have to help these brothers and sisters of yours to realize their dreams and hold their heads up high.

So go out into the world, take pride in being a responsible Indian, and do us all proud. My Best Wishes and blessings are with each one of you. My special thanks to all the “Gurus”, teachers & Staff who have brought us to this level.

Thank You

Jai Hind