

**Address of Hon'ble MOS EA at the first
Convocation at Dr. B.S. Abdur Rahman
University, Vandalur, Chennai on 20th Jan. 2012**

My friend Mr. Abdul Qadir A. Rahman Buhari,
Pro-Chancellor,

Dr. P. Kanniappan, Vice-Chancellor,

Dr. V. M. Periasamy Registrar,

Faculties, my dear Students, Graduates of the
Institute,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me immense pleasure to be with you on
this 24th Graduates Day of B. S. Abdur Rahman
Crescent Engineering College.

At this juncture I would like to recall my close
association with Dr. B. S. Abdur Rahman whose
vision and dream had brought this institution to

the present level. I appreciate his efforts in running 14 Educational Institutions for educating poor and minority students.

I am happy that he is doing a great service in the field of education particularly for the women's education.

“When you educate a man you educate an individual. But while you educate a woman, you educate a whole family”.

I wish him a good health, long life and wish glorious success in all his noble endeavours.

Today's world is a knowledge society. India, through its huge human resource is asserting its rightful place in this new emerging world order.

India has proved its capacity in the domain of Information and Communication technologies and is gaining prominence in various fields of science, engineering and technology. According to a 2008 report, about 36% of the employees in NASA are persons of Indian origin. We have a rich history and tradition in playing pioneering role in various domains of human life like Astronomy, Mathematics and Medicine. This rich human resource is the basic strength of our nation and the Government is committed to nurture and enhance this huge potential. Developing the human resources of this vast scale warrants active participation of various stake holders. Institutions like B. S. Abdur Rahman University have a role to play in realizing this ambition of the nation.

I am happy to note that a self financing engineering college started in the year 1984 by Dr. B.S. Abdur Rahman, with a humble beginning of just 180 students, has now grown up into a university educating over 4000 students over period of 28 years.

Indian higher education system is one of the largest in the world featuring over 32,000 institutes and around 17 million enrolments. However, despite the large number of enrolments, the country's gross enrolment ratio still remains alongside the gross enrolment ratios of lower middle-income countries. Moreover, the higher

education system in India needs strengthening in certain quality parameters like student – teacher ratio, research activities and infrastructure. Government is endeavouring to bring about changes in Higher Education.

Perceiving the changing knowledge and skill requirements in our country as well as globally and the increasing demand for higher education, we have increased our budget allocations almost seven times in the recent years.

We have also undertaken a number of new initiatives. Besides setting up of new institutions of higher learning both in basic and applied areas

of study, we have also decided to create some national level resource institutions such as:

- National Commission for Higher Education and Research.
- National Authority for Regulation in Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions.
- Educational Tribunals.

There will be around 800 Universities of all types (up from 500) with nearly 50,000 colleges, ten of our institutions/universities will feature among the top 100 of the world.

Reforms in the form of mandatory accreditation, prohibiting and punishing unfair practices in technical and medical education,

regulation of entry and operation of Foreign Educational Institutes and for establishment of Educational Tribunals are ready for legislation which will further streamline the process for quality education. A National Commission/Council for Higher Education and Research for maintenance and coordination of standards for the entire higher education space is also being established.

The Government has accorded blanket permission to all institutions of higher learning to collaborate with foreign institutions in all areas of mutual interests. We are encouraging our institutions to undertake both faculty exchange

and joint research programs with institutions from abroad.

The numbers of technology institutes – IITs have already gone up. We are planning to set up as many as 14 Innovation Universities, which are going to be research-intensive universities. These universities would aim at organising, promoting and conducting research in collaboration or association with any other university, institution of research or body incorporate.

Friends,

We are aware of the need to ensure the convergence between the conventional and distance mode of learning. Besides, we will have to take on

board the private service providers and persuade them to implement the social agenda to increasing the participation rates of marginalised sections of the society. We are also planning to set up a number of institutions of higher learning in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. In order to compete with the foreign universities, our universities have to improve their educational standards and provide quality education to students.

Of late, employability of graduates coming out of our educational system is becoming a matter of great concern. I am told that only 25 percent of the general graduates across all streams have employable skills. When we look specifically at

Technology Graduates, only 35-40 percent of them are readily employable. This is a matter of great concern and needs to be addressed with all seriousness. I am happy to note this Institute is focusing on development of the soft skills of Students.

My dear students, learning is a lifelong endeavour. Graduation is not the end of learning but a major transition from one mode of learning to another. It signifies the transition from assisted learning to self learning. Learning has to continue and self learning has to take place. This is a great freedom! and a big responsibility as well. I am sure all the graduates of this Institute are prepared to meet up this challenge.

I wish you all a great success in your professional and personal life.

Thank you, Jai Hind.