

SEVENTH CONVOCATION

JANUARY 14, 2005

ADDRESS

By

SHRI ARJUN SINGH

Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development
Govt. of India



JAMIA HAMDARD

(Deemed University)

Hamdard Nagar, New Delhi – 110062

SEVENTH CONVOCATION

JANUARY 14, 2005

ADDRESS

By

SHRI ARJUN SINGH

Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development
Govt. of India



JAMIA HAMDARD

(Deemed University)

Hamdard Nagar, New Delhi – 110062

JAMIA HAMDARD
(Deemed University)
Hamdard Nagar, New Delhi

SEVENTH CONVOCATION
JANUARY 14, 2005

ADDRESS

By

SHRI ARJUN SINGH

Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development
Govt. of India

*Hon'ble Chancellor, Mr. Saiyid Hamid, Vice-Chancellor
Mr. Siraj Hussain, President, Hamdard National Foundation
Mr. Abdul Mueed, Members of the Executive and Academic
Councils, Faculty members, recipients of Degrees and their
parents, dear students, ladies and gentlemen.*

I am honoured to be here for the seventh Annual Convocation of Jamia Hamdard. I have had a long association with the founder of Jamia Hamdard, Hakeem Abdul Hameed Saheb, a truly remarkable visionary and philanthropist. His vision of setting up modern institutions of teaching and research in Unani medicine, Islamic Studies and related areas of knowledge is unparalleled. I have come here, to the Jamia Hamdard campus, a couple of times in the past. I am greatly impressed with the fact that the social and academic ambience is always more vibrant, involved and serious, befitting an institution of higher learning.

Education and health are the two key concerns in our National Common Minimum Programme. That both fields are equally emphasised at Jamia Hamdard, is a tribute to the farsighted vision of Hakeem Saheb. All of India, and in particular the Muslims of India, can never forget the pioneering role of Hakeem Saheb in catalyzing and channelizing private funding of institutions. His gesture was modern, selfless, and full of sense of pride. It is meant to be a model of self-reliance for the nation as a whole. As you know we are in the process of finding a model that could strike the right balance between encouraging private initiative and avoiding commercialization of higher education. I believe that Hakeem Saheb's vision gives us one of the better options, which serves the twin objectives, and helps in increasing access to larger numbers in higher professional education.

It is indeed a matter of great pride that Jamia Hamdard attracts students from almost all parts of India, and also from as many as 16 foreign countries across South East Asia, South Asia, Middle East and North Africa. I am happy to note that the National Assessment and Accreditation Council has accredited Jamia Hamdard. I am sure Hakeem Saheb would have approved this quest for academic excellence and quality.

One of the major grievances of religious minorities in several states of our country has been the denial of their constitutional right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. Even though our Constitution makers gave this fundamental right to minorities, so that they could also contribute their share to the task of nation building, it is a matter of serious concern that there have been attempts to frustrate this constitutional commitment. These are not innocent acts, these had been deliberate and parts of a diabolic design

to disrupt our social fabric. The National Common Minimum Programme which was endorsed by the people of India provides that modern and technical education among all minorities will be promoted. It also provides that social and economic empowerment of minorities, through a more systematic attention to education and employment, will be priority concern for our government.

In several states of India, particularly those of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry etc., the level of literacy in the Muslim community has exceeded or matched the average literacy levels in these states. But there are states which have a long way to go.

I hope that the graduates of Jamia Hamdard who have been awarded the degrees today will do their bit to promote education of underprivileged children in North Indian states, particularly, U.P. and Bihar, which have a large population of Indian Muslims. As the beneficiaries of the country's educational system, it is the responsibility of the graduates passing out of the colleges and universities to pay attention to the needs of others who have not had the opportunity to pursue higher education.

The two eminent personalities being honoured by Jamia Hamdard today, Mr. Asghar Ali Engineer and Dr. P.K. Warriar have contributed enormously in their own ways to the cause of nation building. Mr. Asghar Ali Engineer has been an advocate for Muslims to participate in, and benefit from, the growing economic strength of our country, by preparing themselves through the process of modern education.

Dr. P.K. Warriar continues innovative practices in Ayurveda which have helped in global recognition of this

Indian heritage. It was the genius of Mr. P.S. Varier and Hakeem Abdul Hameed which introduced standardised preparation of Ayurvedic and Unani medicines. Dr. P.K. Warriar has excelled as a teacher, researcher, scientist, physician and advocate for Ayurveda. By conferring an Honorary Doctorate on Dr. Warriar, Jamia Hamdard has taken the lead in bringing Ayurveda and Unani systems of medicine closer to each other. Hakim Ajmal Khan had also envisioned a closer interaction between these two indigenous systems of medicine. I hope this will open new vistas for close scientific collaboration between the two great institutions of Jamia Hamdard and the Arya Vaidya Sala, Kottakkal.

Today, India is seen as an emerging knowledge power. We have proved ourselves in the field of Information Technology. I am sure we have a similar future in biotechnology and the related fields. The new satellite recently launched by ISRO, Edusat, will provide enormous opportunity to our universities to reach out to large areas of our country. I am sure Jamia Hamdard will take advantage of Edusat. The excellence achieved by Jamia Hamdard fulfils not only the dream of its founder but also inspires the Muslim community in India to actively participate in the ongoing revolution in increased educational opportunities in science and technology.

The recent tragedy, and its aftermath, has brought home several lessons. Out of the most significant of these, to my mind, is that our mankind — not withstanding some extreme and narrow minded notions of differences in class, caste, colour, race or religion — is bound together in its fragility and vulnerability. Equally significant is the lesson that mankind is also bonded together in its resolve to stand together in any hour of crisis — the spirit of help and voluntary relief for the victims, is a testimony to this.

I wish all those being conferred with degrees and other academic awards at this Convocation a very bright future in the service of the nation and humanity at large.

Jai Hind.

JAMIA HAMDARD

(Deemed University)

Hamdard Nagar, New Delhi - 110062

Website: www.jamiahamdard.edu

E-mail: info@jamiahamdard.edu

Phone: (91) - 11-26059688 (12 Lines)

Fax: (91)-11-26059663