

My Esteemed Colleagues, Dear Young Friends, Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen,

My Heartiest Greetings to every one of you on the auspicious occasion of our 73<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day.

Friends,

Our country has reached the Pinnacle of Innovation, Science and Technology with the nation's Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan projects. The Mangalyaan project assumes special significance, due to the core group being full of Women.

When certain Sectors are advancing and breaking hegemony of some Developed Nations in space research, we in Academic Domain need to retrospect ourselves, and realise the Importance of ***“Change in Country is Possible with Change in Education”***.

At this juncture what is expected of every teacher / faculty is to give our young and our coming generations Encouragement and a Culture of Curiosity, especially in the Classroom. We need to change the Class Room functioning – making it more learning based - coupled with Innovation, rather than just teaching based.

Friends, we at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, have taken up good number of Reforms in last 4 months precisely – to quote a few are – Reducing the Procedural Drudgery in Purchases of Equipment / Softwares, empowering HODs with some operational facility and purchase powers, establishing some basic academic standards to begin with making 35% marks mandatory for passing in the End Semester Examination carrying 60 marks, Revamping of Answer Book Evaluation system to facilitate timely release of Results, Setting good standards for recognising Research Supervisors across the University (for example out of 175 applications received, 31 were given recognition as Ph.D Supervisors in recently held AC meeting), making our 13<sup>th</sup> Academic Council Meeting held in July

2019 online, for the first time in Maharashtra State, open to all our stake holders and viewed by 1000s of people, and so on.

I feel proud to announce that we are the 1<sup>st</sup> University in the State of Maharashtra to conduct a Workshop on new National Education Policy – 2019, declared by GOI, at Aurangabad in July. Recently on 3<sup>rd</sup> of August we held the 2<sup>nd</sup> such Workshop at Sholapur, open to students from Science stream as well, with the aim of creating awareness about the importance of Inter-Disciplinary and Multi-Disciplinary approaches in problem solving. We at DBATU took decision to Institute One Research Fellowship in every Department, exclusively for carrying out Inter-Disciplinary Research.

Friends, any type of Reforms and relaxing of Rules and Regulations have meaning only if we use these for building a Honest and Transparent ambiance to carry out our business, and our business at Universities is to Disseminate Knowledge. It will be of no use if we don't use these reforms to promote and build imaginative and innovative atmosphere in Universities for developing good engineers and good human beings, and help society to create sustainable jobs.

Friends, I feel happy to inform our Family of DBATU and send a message to all our stakeholders, that we have taken initiatives to encourage innovative spirit of students by Identifying good B.Tech and M.Tech projects with Applicability to Rural Society and funding these projects to the tune of upto Rs. 20,000/= from this academic year 2019-20. We are shortly going to start an Innovation Centres at Lonere Campus and Sholapur, with the participation of students of B.Tech, M.Tech and M.Sc, not only from affiliated Institutions of DBATU, but also involving others – with an idea of forming Multi-Disciplinary student groups facilitating promotion of innovative projects - which are directly related to Agriculture Sector, Rural Water System and Rural Power Generation. To begin with, we are Granting a Seed Money of Rs. 5 Lakhs for each Centre identifying

atleast 20 such projects, which could be taken ahead into Incubation Cells and converted into Startups. I am sure with the active participation of our Faculty and students, and encouragement from our State Government and Ministry of HRD – GOI and Ministry of MSME – GOI, the proposed Centres will hopefully become a role model in Maharashtra.

I am confident, we, together, at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, by Joining Hands, and truly following the ideals established and inspiration provided by Shri Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, can make our University play a significant role in improving the living conditions of Great Nation in general and our state of Maharashtra in particular.

Friends, I would like to conclude my address by quoting a point given by our Honourable President, His Highness Shri Ramnath Kovindji, during his Address to the Nation on the occasion of 73<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day -

I quote - “May those ideals and may that urge to learn and to listen and to become better, may that curiosity and may that fraternalism, always be with us. May it always bless us, and always bless India” - unquote.

Best Wishes to each one of you present here and all our stake holders present in different parts of our country and abroad.

JAI HIND