

THE INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

cof

Hebbal P.O.,  
Bangalore-6.  
23rd November 1971.

DEAR SIR,

At their Meeting held on 7th November 1971, the Council of the Indian Academy of Sciences considered the valid nominations received respectively for election of (1) The President of the Academy, (2) Fellows and (3) Honorary Fellows. The Council's recommendations are listed separately in the enclosed balloting papers. You are requested kindly to affix your signature to the three balloting papers after exercising your votes therein and return them in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope after duly closing it so as to reach this office not later than 31st December 1971.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

B. S. VENKATACHAR,

Secretary.

Swiftly signed the three  
recommendation slips of the Council  
& sent them today.

BSM  
5/12/71

Write to Dr. Gansser  
to arrange for the sending  
of my Curr. Sci. to  
Prof. A. Müller, Abteilung Chemie  
der Universität Dortmund, Teilbereich  
Anorganische Chemie, 46  
Dortmund - Hombrecht  
Postfach 500

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6<sup>th</sup> April 1974 10.30 - 12.10  
Welcome sheet by S.B. Mahaji

Mr. Chancellor, Respected Prime Minister, Students,  
ladies and gentlemen,

I rise to extend to the Prime Minister a respectful,  
cordial and grateful welcome.

The Commemoration Volume which is to be released by  
her gives a fairly complete story of the birth and growth  
of the University of Poona. I shall, therefore, content  
myself with stating briefly - in fact, just one sentence -  
what its characteristic achievement has been.

Though Poona has changed its face, the University has  
seen to it that it has not changed its heart. That heart  
is still pulsating - continues to pulsate with the mission  
to carry enlightenment to the masses, through their own  
language.

Let me explain this claim.

Universities, as we now know them, date back in origin  
by some six centuries. And they have, over the years,  
carried out admirably the two functions of research and  
teaching. But, when Abraham Lincoln signed in 1862, the  
Morrill Act for the Land Grant Colleges, service of the com-  
munity was recognized as a third additional, important  
function.

So much is evident. But, prior to all this, in the  
12th Century, not far from Poona, at Newasa, Sant Dnyaneshwar  
started, as it were, a people's University by dictating his  
Dnyaneshwari in Marathi, just to make available to the  
masses the teachings treasured up in Geeta.

Again, in 1884, here in Poona, the Deccan Education  
Society was launched into existence for cheapening and  
facilitating education for the people.

In the wake of this noble tradition, this University,  
right from its inception, assumed the role of a service-  
oriented institution. It set up an Extra-Mural Board which

through its 100 mofussil centres now informs and educates the masses through Marathi. Besides this there are affiliated to us 92 colleges in the rural area.

Nor are the two functions of research and teaching neglected. Students and faculty members have made notable contribution in academic and other fields. The University Grants Commission has given us three centres of advanced study <sup>for Centre for Special Assistance</sup> and two leadership programmes in Science. Under the Indo-British Universities Collaboration programme, we have sisterhood relationship with the Physics Departments of the Universities of London and York.

Again three of our professors - two of them, this very year - have been honoured with the award of पद्म भूषण. Their researches have strengthened the position of this University as a member of the international community.

Well, what of the future? Will the University help in coping with the tasks of a new era?

Most countries in the world are faced today with the problem of shortages of one sort or another. With us the shortages are shortages of essentials of life - food, housing, clothing, medicines, drinking water in many parts and jobs. The incredible increase in population has worsened the situation. But, Japan and Germany were in a worse condition after the last war which almost crushed them. They suffered not from shortages, but from the near-absence of many things. And yet these countries overcame these difficulties and almost reached the top of the economic ladder. This miracle is explained by their intense love of the country and all that it implies plus uninterrupted hard work.

As things stand, against the developing energy-crisis, we have available to us two newly discovered sources of energy - the trade union movement and the student power. Paradoxical though it may seem, Winston Churchill himself

recognized Trade Union Movement as a fifth "estate of the realm". Now, as with steam, electricity and the atom, these two sources of energy must be intelligently harnessed. The only known way to do it with human material is not mere instruction but education which will give a vision of excellence and the motivation to reach it.

Universities have before them a proposal to compress academic work in five days in a week and reserve the sixth one as "field day" for all such activities as the NCC, the NSS, the NSO and Schemes of work-experience - work which must be productive or at least as will enliven the lives of the poor. This will bring teachers and students into healthy, close contact and prevent polarisation. Intimate, informal conversation and discussion will raise visions of greatness and create the needed motivation for constructive work to build a new India for the common man.

True, Mr.Chancellor, the common man has come into his own. But, today he is sick, suffering from the ailment of poverty. The whole nation is like a hospital with the poor as patients. Nehru always spoke of the healing touch. But, it is only a woman - a nurse - that carries the healing touch. Florence Nightingale did that in Crimea, on the fields of a shooting war. Indiraji is doing in India just the same in a continuing war against poverty. It is the common experience that not all the ministrations of a nurse accord with the wishes of her patients. But, they are needed for the cure and are later appreciated. It is interesting to read in the Encyclopaedia Britannica -

"Florence Nightingale dedicated her life for the treatment and welfare of the private soldier and the Army regarded her with something approaching worship".

May I paraphrase this to show how our Prime Minister will

be described in future?

In the censorship of history, appellations like Smt. Mrs. and even Prime Minister will drop and the chronicle will read thus:-

"Indira Gandhi dedicated her life for the treatment and welfare of the common man and the nation regarded her with something approaching worship".

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