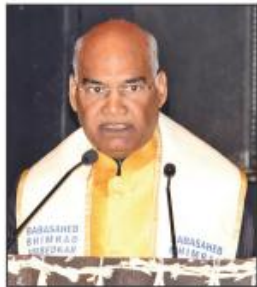


'City's pehle aap culture makes one selfless'

When Life Lessons Come Straight From President

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: If countrymen imbibe Lucknow's 'pehle aap' (After you, please) tehzeeb (etiquette) from Lucknow, a lot of issues would be resolved, said President Ramnath



President Ramnath Kovind addresses students at the event

Kovind at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University's 7th convocation on Friday.

He said 'pehle aap' is not a mere formality but makes one a better human being. Lucknow, said the President, is a city of culture and is known for its values all around. "People should learn 'pehle aap' from this city," he said. The President said the tehzeeb teaches us to be patient and give priority to others. "Rather than being impatient and aggressive, it teaches us to be sensitive," he said, adding the practice can actually lead to more happiness.

Invoking two Bharat Ratna's, social reformer BR Ambedkar and former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Kovind said, "They have inspired us with their hard work and struggle they went through for their nation." Insisting that both Vajpayee and Ambedkar had strong Lucknow connection, Kovind said, "People of Lucknow elected Vajpayee and sent him to Parliament a number of times as their representative.

'Job limits you, with biz, sky is the limit'

Urging students to turn entrepreneurs and become job creators rather than job seekers, Kovind said, "Being in a job has its own limitations. But for those who choose to start their own business, the sky is the limit." Students, he said, must come forward for start-ups which reminds one of the country's culture. He gave the example of Brian Acton, who was not hired by either Facebook or Twitter, but later became a co-founder of WhatsApp. "Relativity applies to physics, not ethics," Kovind said, adding that there can be no ambiguity or scope for argument on ethics. **TNN**

People respect him for his contribution towards the country and society."

On Ambedkar, Kovind said, the father of the Indian constitution was known for all his hard work throughout his life. "When he was studying in Columbia University, he completed his thesis fast. This quality of his made him the chairman of Constitution draft committee," he said, adding when Ambedkar was a student in Columbia, it was considered its golden period.

At BBAU, Kovind relived his memories of 2002-03 when he was a Rajya Sabha member and visited this university as a member of its Board of Management (BoM), the apex body for academic and administrative decisions.

He said the country is making rapid progress but we need to do work at specific social and economic challenges as well as in the areas of science and technology. When the country moves forward, he said, every citizen benefits and gets opportunities for personal development.

CONVOCATION AT BBAU

A DAY WITH PREZ AND PRIZES

Photos: Manoj Chhabra and Ajay Kumar



President Ramnath Kovind felicitated BBAU students & praised their innovations, while toppers clicked selfies at convocation

Support at hand, farmers' sons reap gold as toppers

Mohita Tewari | TNN

Lucknow: Books from library and meals arranged by friends were what saw Mahendra sail through his MSc in applied mathematics. This son of a rickshaw puller was among the four meritorious students who were conferred gold medal by President Ramnath Kovind during BBAU's convocation on Friday.

"My father and my friends have made my journey to the gold medal easy. My father works as a rickshaw puller in Delhi and as a farmer in Basti to support my studies. I want to become a professor so that I can make my father proud," said Mahendra. He insisted that he would never have won a gold medal had it not been for the efforts of his friends at the university. "I can never forget how they helped me out when I didn't have money to pay mess fee," he added.

Two more toppers coming from a humble background, Majesh Kumar and Vikas Chaurasiya, shared Mahendra's sentiments. Farmer's son Manjesh Kumar of Hardoi got emotional as he received a gold medal from the President. "My family's happiness doubled when they came to know that I will be awarded a medal by the President. I aspire to become a professor and want to



ONE FOR YEARBOOK: The four gold medalists

work towards education of dalits."

Holding his gold medal, another farmer's son Vikas Chaurasiya was delighted beyond words. "School, department and now university topper; what more could I have dreamt of. I want to make my career in academics." All three medal winners from MSc (applied mathematics) come from agriculture background and want to make their career in academics. The fourth topper was Richa Verma, MSc (Information and Technology) who received a big round of applause as she went up on the stage to receive her medal. "The President said to me, 'look at the kind of support you have from your friends'. He congratulated me on my success," she said.

Youngest PhD girl gets pat from Prez

Isha Jain @timesgroup.com

Lucknow: At 17, Sushma Verma is used to earning accolades for academic excellence. She is India's youngest girl to enrol in a PhD programme, that too, at 15. She was also recognised by the Limca Book of Records as the youngest student to pass class X at the age of 7 years, 3 months and 28 days old, in 2007. Yet, being called 'extraordinary' by President Ramnath Kovind was an experience in itself.

So stunned was Sushma that she couldn't focus on whatever else Kovind said about her. "This was so unexpected. I feel humbled and blessed to have him compliment me," said Sushma.

TOI has been following her since 2005 when she was just five and had enrolled in class IX at the UP Board-affiliated St Meera's Inter College. Post her graduation, she joined MSc in Microbiology at

BBAU. Not only did she complete her course but was the topper and was given medal by PM Narendra Modi in 2016 at the university's convocation.

Lauding Sushma and Neelu Sharma, who in April won the UGC's Swami Vivekanand single girl child scholarship, Kovind said, "Babasaheb (Ambedkar) samaanta ke paksh me the, par betiyen aaj unke sapno se aarth nikal rahi hai (Ambedkar called for gender equality but girls are surpassing his expectations)."

Neelu said, "I felt so important when people from President's secretariat inquired about my work." Neelu enrolled in BBAU's PhD in mass communication in 2015. She is also a recipient of 'Films for Change' fellowship by a London-based Television Environment. Both Sushma and Neelu were chosen by the university to share their experiences with the President.



Sushma; Neelu Sharma

'Innovation not enough, it should be mainstreamed'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: An interesting event at this year's BBAU convocation was the 'Grassroot innovators summit and exhibition' that had students from across the state display their scientific models. At the exhibition, President Ramnath Kovind, advised innovators to focus on mainstreaming their inventions. He asked the students to transform their innovations into technologies that can be used in public interest or "jungle mein mor nacha kisi ne na dekha, (innovation that's not mainstreamed is of no use)". He also said universities and educational institutions need to promote such ideas in the form of startups and innovators.

Around 50 scientific innovations, including the washing machine which can be run without electricity, were presented before the President.