Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University

Hyderabad



TWENTY SIXTH CONVOCATION

Chief Guest Address

Prof. UMA KANJILAL

Vice-Chancellor,

Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi

Tuesday, 30th September, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

Bhavanam Venkatram Auditorium, University Campus, Hyderabad

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR OPEN UNIVERSITY

JUBILEE HILLS, HYDERABAD.
TELANGANA

Convocation Address

26th Convocation of

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad

30th September, 2025

Prof. Uma Kanjilal

Vice-Chancellor,

Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi

26th Convocation Chief Guest Address

Hon'ble Governor of Telangana and Chancellor of the University, Shri Jishnu Dev Varma ji

Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani, Vice-Chancellor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University

Distinguished members of the Executive Council and Academic Council;

Respected faculty and staff of the University;

Proud parents and families;

Members of the press and media;

and the graduating students.

I extend my heartfelt greetings to everyone gathered on this significant occasion. It is both a privilege and an honour to stand before you today to deliver the Convocation Address at the Twenty-Sixth Convocation of this pioneering Open University in the field of distance education.

Convocation ceremonies hold a special place in the academic journey of every learner. They are not merely formal events where degrees are conferred, but symbolic milestones that celebrate knowledge, perseverance, and the spirit of lifelong learning. A convocation is a moment of collective pride, where the efforts of learners, teachers, and institutions come together in recognition of academic achievement and human aspiration.

Today, we celebrate the success of sixty thousand two hundred and eighty-eight graduates, including two hundred and three learners from correctional institutions. This cohort includes fifty-five Ph.D. awardees, eighty-six Gold Medal recipients, and six achievers who will be

recognized with Book Prizes. Each of you represents the very essence of perseverance and the transformative power of open and distance learning. Your accomplishments are not only personal triumphs but also inspiring examples for society.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University holds a distinctive place in India's educational history. Established in 1982 as the nation's first Open University, it laid the foundation for a movement that has since democratized education across India. The vision of Prof. G. Ram Reddy, the founding force behind BRAOU, later inspired the creation of IGNOU, giving rise to a system that continues to expand access to higher education. BRAOU has, from its inception, embraced innovation and inclusivity, offering programs in Arts, Commerce, Education, Sciences, Social Sciences, and advanced research leading to Ph.D. degrees. Notably, it was also the first open university to introduce science programs through the Open and Distance Learning mode, reinforcing its pioneering spirit.

In recent years, BRAOU has made remarkable strides. It has earned NAAC accreditation with an "A" grade and a CGPA of 3.12, achieving the highest number of APAAR registrations nationwide. Its Employability Framework has been endorsed by the Commonwealth of Learning, further strengthening its global footprint. The University has partnered with leading organizations such as the Swamy Ramananda Tirtha Rural Institute, RASCI, and TCS to deliver vocational and futuristic employability training to rural as well as urban learners. Further, specialized programs have been rolled out for the Telangana Police in fields like Cybersecurity, Law, Ethics, and Human Rights, while tailor-made courses have also been designed for Agniveers to ease their transition into civilian careers. Through the SAMATHA Freeship Scheme, the University has extended free education to marginalized groups such as Transgenders, Scheduled Tribes, Primitive Tribal communities, and persons with disabilities. The NIPUNA Fellowships, benefitting five thousand learners (half of them women) support

access to skill-focused courses aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. At the same time, BRAOU is advancing toward robust digitization with the establishment of a Digital Resource Centre, launching programs in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning from the coming academic session, and designing a next-generation Learning Management System to make learning more inclusive, adaptive, and technology-driven.

Open, Distance, and Digital Learning (ODDL) has, in recent years, become a transformative force in shaping India's education system. ODDL has expanded the reach of equity and opportunity, embodying the spirit of the National Education Policy 2020, which emphasizes flexibility, multiple entry-exit pathways, and lifelong learning. By integrating technologies like MOOCs, virtual labs, and artificial intelligence, ODDL is equipping learners with employable skills, helping India progress towards a higher Gross Enrolment Ratio and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. It has proven to be resilient even in times of crisis, such as during the pandemic. Far from being a supplementary model, ODDL is now a mainstream channel of knowledge, one that strengthens India's education system while empowering citizens for the challenges of the future.

In today's rapidly evolving knowledge society, distance and digital education are central to advancing inclusive and lifelong learning. With emerging tools like AI-powered platforms, adaptive learning systems, and digital classrooms, institutions like BRAOU stand at the forefront of India's educational transformation.

Dear graduates, this convocation marks not the end of your journey, but the beginning of new opportunities. Your degrees are more than academic achievements; they symbolize inclusivity, resilience, and hope. The values you carry from this University: equity, innovation, and service to society, must guide you as you shape your careers and lives. Remember, education is not confined to an institution or a phase of life; it is a lifelong pursuit. Let your learning and your

values be a force for good in your professions, your communities, and in the nation.

As Dr. B.R. Ambedkar wisely said, "Cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence." I warmly congratulate the faculty and administration of BRAOU, whose commitment has nurtured this spirit of innovation and inclusivity. To every graduate, I extend heartfelt congratulations for bringing pride to your families, your university, and to our nation. May you continue to grow, to learn, and to contribute towards building a stronger and more inclusive Bharat.

Thank you, and my best wishes to you all.

Jai Hind.

VISION

To build an egalitarian and enlightened society by making inclusive quality education accessible, flexible and equitable - fostering individual dignity and collective progress.

MISSION

- To realize Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of social justice by making higher education accessible to all, particularly to socially, economically and geographically disadvantaged sections of society.
- To democratize the Teaching-Learning process by providing equitable, affordable, flexible and quality education to meet the evolving societal needs.
- To leverage modern information and digital communication technologies to enhance the reach, efficiency and effectiveness of teaching, learning, and administrative processes.
- To offer relevant academic, skill and vocational programmes to promote employability.
- To foster a learner-centric environment that supports self-paced and independent learning with robust academic and student support services.
- To collaborate with academic, governmental, civil society institutions and industry to strengthen extension education, research and community development initiatives.
- To nurture academic excellence, innovation and multi-disciplinary research that contributes to inclusive national development and social transformation.

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