



'Skills, competence matter in rapidly evolving world'

Says ex-UGC chairman Jagadesh Kumar at 30th convocation of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open Uni

Thirty-nine gold medalists were among the 18,108 students who were awarded academic distinctions during the Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University's 10th Convocation on Monday. Forty students earned a silver medal.

As many as 9,003 students were awarded bachelor's degrees, and 4,075 their master's degrees. Additionally, one student was awarded the MPhil degree, and 16 researchers were conferred with the prestigious PhD degree. Former UGC chairman Jagadesh Kumar, the chief guest, told students that in a rapidly evolving world, it was one's skill and competence that mattered and the mode of education - distance or traditional - held little weight.

Prafulbhai Pansheriya, MoS Education during his address reminded the students that "Knowledge bestows humility." He urged them to adopt humility and wisdom as the

foundation of success and encouraged them to renounce harmful habits and unworthy paths and instead pledge for the uplift of the marginalized.

Health Minister Rushikesh Patel spoke to students about the need to transform the mere accumulation of information into real knowledge for social welfare. He described the university's education as "input," which must be turned into meaningful "output" to serve society and the nation. He stressed that degrees are not just tools for employment but stepping stones toward nation-building. He inspired the students to continue learning with the changing times and to keep themselves constantly updated so as to empower the nation to become a strong one. He also urged them to extend a helping hand to others in need. Chancellor and Governor of Gujarat, Acharya Devvrat and Vice-Chancellor Ami Upadhyay also spoke on the occasion. **AM**

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