

# Orientation Day Address by Prof Anu Singh Lather, Vice Chancellor

**My Dear Students**

**Welcome to the New Semester!**



I hope you and your family members have been keeping in good health. It has indeed been a difficult time for all of us. Despite being severely affected by the pandemic, Dr. B R Ambedkar University has risen to these challenges and successfully completed the academic session 2019-20. This could be achieved because of the timely and efficient planning of teaching-learning and assessment by the Faculty. The students got connected to their teachers through online platforms both in synchronous and asynchronous mode.

The administrative staff showed extraordinary commitment by performing their duties efficiently and timely dispensing off routine as well as extra work during the pandemic. Hence, we have dealt with the crisis with a common resolve and were able to succeed. Both the faculty and the students adapted well to the change. Now we are commencing the next cycle of our academic journey i.e. Monsoon Semester 2020-21 for our existing UG, PG, MPhil and, Ph.D. students on August 4, 2020, via online mode. We hope the situation will improve in the near future and we could proceed with our regular classes with the same enthusiasm and dedication.

I have been reading your messages, emails, and representations, which have helped us to identify areas of improvement in the existing mechanisms of online teaching and learning. Therefore, to bridge that gap, we have focused on various existing IT tools and necessary Softwares for asynchronous as well as synchronous teaching and online administrative activities. In continuation of this, various academic and administrative decisions have been taken to strengthen and enhance the teacher and student connect through e-learning. Hence, the following points, inter alia, will be taken care of during the upcoming semester.

- **Synchronous and asynchronous modes of online teaching in the blended form will be combined optimally towards effective, stress-free learning by students.**
- **Recorded lectures and adequate study material will be made available by the course faculty to students in an easily accessible format.**
- **Timetables will be placed by the IT Division at the web page of the respective Schools on the AUD website.**
- **Adequate space will be given by faculty to students between successive online classes to optimize learning and minimize visual strain.**
- **The University library shall procure e-books on an urgent basis. The use of open textbooks as available from various institutional repositories will also be explored by the faculty.**

- **Individual student cases that remain outside the domain of online learning will be provided with alternative ways of completing the semester in the light of UGC guidelines**
- **The concerns related to online teaching-learning from students will be addressed via the twin processes of course feedback forms and the Student-Faculty Committee.**
- **The University shall extend the internet pack facility for the eligible EWS students this semester as well.**
- **The Ehsaas Clinic shall be providing a robust mental health support system. Students can also contact members of the ‘Student Counselling Cells’ which have been constituted recently for all the 3 AUD campuses to address the mental health issues of the individual students.**
- **A ‘Student Grievance Cell for COVID-19’ to address the issues related to examination and academic activities arising out of disruption during this time has been created by the university. You may register your grievance at [studentgrievance-covid19@aud.ac.in](mailto:studentgrievance-covid19@aud.ac.in).**

We understand the concerns of our students and assure all of you that efforts will be made to reach out to every student to help him/her to cope with the difficult circumstances. The systems and its relevant solutions shall be designed keeping in mind the concept of optimization and its implementation on a day to day basis. Our faculty and staff have taken the situation as an opportunity to work through alternative platforms of learning and we hope to continue with a similar approach until the situation normalizes.

I understand that at this time, the students will seek advice from their teachers not only for their educational endeavours but also for their emotional well-being. Therefore, I also appeal to our faculty members to prepare themselves for bigger responsibility and ensure their availability for the students whenever they need them.

Imparting education through quality learning is our absolute priority. Hence to ensure this, we have been continuously evolving our processes through consultation and communication with respective stakeholders to address the issues and concerns timely. We must learn to capitalize on our available resources, which will help us to face the challenges more efficiently and also determine our resilience to the pandemic.

I wish you all the very best for your next semester.

Hoping to see you soon on our campus. We all miss you!

Best Wishes  
Prof. Anu Singh Lather