

Prof. G. Ram Reddy

was the harbinger of the idea of open university in India. He was the founding Vice Chancellor of India's first Open University, the Andhra Pradesh Open University (APOU), and of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). Educated at Osmania University and the London School of Economics, he was a distinguished scholar of Political Science and Public Administration. His contribution to the cause of higher education in India and other developing countries earned him world-wide acclaim and recognition. Convinced of the importance of universal access to higher education in achieving economic development, Prof. G. Ram Reddy made as his life's mission. He established, shaped and nurtured many institutions of higher learning, including the UGC, ICSSR, NAAC and BRAOU in India. He held many other important positions in the academic world - Vice Chancellor of Osmania University for two terms, Vice-President of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Vancouver, Chairman of the University Grants Commission and Chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research. The COL-International Council of Distance Education (ICDE) Award for Excellence conferred on Prof. Ram Reddy, is an eloquent testimony to the international recognition of his vision and contribution. People who knew Prof. Reddy, called as **AJATASHATRU**, a person who does not have an enemy. He was an open, friendly, approachable and extremely modest person.



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स्मृति व्याख्यान

Prof. G. Ram Reddy
Memorial Lecture



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Through
Virtual Mode

Programme

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 11.30 am | Welcome
Prof. Satyakam
Chairman, Organising Committee |
| 11.35 am | Film on Prof. G Ram Reddy |
| 11.50 am | Address by
Prof. E. Vayunandan
Vice-Chancellor, YCMOU |
| 12.00 noon | Memorial Lecture by: Chief Guest
Prof. V R Mehta
Former Vice Chancellor, DU |
| 12.45 pm | Vice-Chancellor's Address
Prof. Nageshwar Rao
VC - IGNOU |
| 12.55 pm | Vote of Thanks
Dr. V B Negi
Registrar, IGNOU |

Members of the Organizing Committee
cordially invite you to the

25th Prof. G Ram Reddy Memorial Lecture

(Through Virtual Mode)

on

Thursday, 2nd July, 2020 at 11.30 am

By

Chief Guest

Prof. V R Mehta

Former Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University

Distinguished Guest

Prof. E Vayunandan

Vice-Chancellor,

Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik



The live event will be broadcast by Gyanvani,
telecast on Gyandarshan & webcast through Gyandhara
<http://webcast.ignouonline.ac.in>
<http://www.ignouonline.ac.in/gyandarshan>

INVITATION



Prof. VRAJENDRA RAJ MEHTA



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25

SILVER JUBILEE

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Vrajendra Raj Mehta, Ph.D. (Cantab) is the **Chief Mentor of The Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access (FAEA)** which was set up by him in year 2001. The Foundation is engaged in giving scholarships for higher education to socially and economically disadvantaged students. It has provided support in the form of scholarships to around 1800 students. It has also fostered partnership with 22 colleges as partner colleges all over the country for Soft- Skills development of the marginalised students. The Foundation has been able to raise massive funds through various sources, the most important being The Ford Foundation, Confederation of Indian Industries and Tata Group of Companies, BHEL and host of other organisations.

Born on 19th August 1944, Prof. Mehta was earlier **Vice-Chancellor of University of Delhi (1995-2000)**. He was also the **Vice-Chairman of the Executive committee of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (2001-2004)**. Prof. Mehta was educated at the Universities of Delhi and Cambridge (U.K.). He began his academic career as a Lecturer in Political Science in Delhi. He was later appointed Associate Professor at Himachal Pradesh University, where he became a Professor at the young age of 29. He also became Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and a Member of the Executive Council at the Himachal Pradesh University. Professor Mehta was the **First Vice-Chancellor of Kota Open University from 1987 to 1990**. He was also **Vice-Chancellor of Jodhpur University from 1991-93**.

Professor Mehta was the **Vice-President, International Association of University Presidents, and Chair of the South Asian Council (1997-99)**. He was also a Member of the Governing Board of the Association of Universities of Asia and Pacific Region and also of the Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning during the same period. Widely travelled, Professor Mehta was a commonwealth scholar at Cambridge 1967-70; Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies Oxford, 1982-83; International Visitor to the American Universities 1984 and Shastri Visiting Professor at the University of Calgary (Canada), 1985 and Visitor to the Open University (U.K) 1988, and has delivered lectures at important Institutes and universities in India and abroad. He was also member of the Government of India Delegation to the "intellectual meet" in the USSR which was organized as a part of the Festival of India. Japan Foundation invited him to visit Japan for a short term under its international Cultural Exchange Program in 1997. Professor Mehta used this opportunity to strengthen University of Delhi's academic relations with various Universities in Japan.

Professor Mehta was **Editor and Chairman Advisory Board for the Second Survey of Political Science commissioned by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)** and was **thrice a member of the UGC Advisory Panel in Political Science**.

He has authored five books, three of which have been widely reviewed and praised all over the world.

Professor Mehta was **awarded the V.K.R.V. Rao Award for outstanding contribution to Political Science for the year 1983; Swami Pranavananda Award by the University Grants Commission of India for the year 1989; Nahar Samman Puruskar by Rajasthan Welfare Association for outstanding contribution in the field of Education for the year 1990; Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award 1995 for scoring a string of inspiring achievements in education by Indian Solidarity Council; Bharat Vikas Excellence Award 1996 by Council for National Development, New Delhi and Shromani Award 1996 by the Shromani Institute and Dr. Ambedkar Distinguished Services Award by Bhartiya Dalit Sahitya Academy.**

Soka University, Japan, has honoured Professor Mehta with **Soka University's "Award of Highest Honour and medal**. The citation on the award says "You have devoted great efforts to academic promotion and enhancement of culture and have made great contribution to the eternal peace of mankind and we hereby bestow upon you the award of highest honour of the Soka University in recognition to your immortal achievement." He has also been awarded School of Oriental Philosophy Scholarly Achievement Award by the same University.

Professor Mehta was also **President of Delhi Annuvrat Samiti during 1996-98**. Prof Mehta was awarded **D.Litt (Honoris Causa), by Bundelkhand University 2002 and Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University, Kota 2007**.