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The 11th Convocation Ceremony of SPSU

The magnificent Eleventh Convocation of Sir Padampat Singhania University for the graduating batches of 2024 was held on Monday, November 8th, 2024 with great grandeur and enthusiasm.

The Convocation was presided over by the Honourable Chairperson of the University, Dr. Nidhipati Singhania. Prof. Ved Prakash, Former Chairman, UGC was the Chief Guest. Prof. Prakash in the convocation address stressed on quality education and outcome-based learning in Higher Education Institutions.

The Guests of Honour were Shri Annu Madanlal Kapoor - Film and Television Actor, Shri Sunil Shastri - Indian Politician



and Social Activist, Shri Dilip Kumar Tirkey - Former Captain, Indian Hockey team. They were also conferred with Honoris Causa for the significant contribution in their respective fields. Dr. Raghavpat Singhania, Managing Director, JK Cement Ltd., Col. (Dr.) Sanjay Sinha, Vice President

& Head of Education, Education Vertical, JK Cement Ltd. along with other dignitaries graced the eleventh convocation of Sir Padampat Singhania University, Udaipur. The President Prof. (Dr.) Prithvi Yadav in his address highlighted the strategic industry-academia partnerships,

international collaborations, University ranking, pioneering research, key milestones and Centers of Excellence. He also briefed the august gathering about the various prominent events of the University like the YP Singhania Memorial lecture, Sangyaan - the orientation programme, dynamic

cultural and sports activities and other major significant accomplishments of the University. The students from School of Engineering and Management were awarded the degrees. Jayant Singh Jhala from B.Tech (CSE) degree programme was awarded the Chairperson's Gold Medal. The President's

Medal were awarded to Syed Afroz Hussain - M.Tech (Mining Engineering), Jayant Singh Jhala - B.Tech (CSE) Raashida Attari - MBA, Priya Choudhary - BBA, Registrar, Deans, Deputy Deans, Faculty, Eminent personalities across the country and people from media were a part of the grand celebration.

Mahendra Singh Mewar: A Royal Legacy Remembered

The Mewar Region mourns the passing of a noble leader. Udaipur and the Mewar region are in deep mourning following the passing of Mahendra Singh Mewar, an esteemed member of the Mewar royal family and former Member of Parliament. Known for his dedication to public service and Mewar's heritage, Mahendra Singh, 83, passed away on Sunday at Ananta Hospital near Udaipur. He leaves behind a remarkable legacy, being the father of Nathdwara MLA Vishvaraj Singh and the father-in-law of Rajasamand MP Mahima Kumari.

A Final Farewell at Mahasatya - Mahendra Singh's final rites will be held on Monday at Mahasatya, the royal cremation grounds in Udaipur's Ayad area. Mahendra Singh, the eldest son of Maharana Bhagwat Singh Mewar and Princess Sushila Kumari of Bikaner, was married to Princess Nirupama Kumari of Tehri Garhwal, uniting two prominent royal lineages. His life was marked by his devotion to preserving Mewar's traditions and values.

Condolences from National Leaders, Including PM Modi - Expressions of grief and respect poured in from across the nation, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi sharing his tribute to Mahendra Singh's legacy. "Mahendra Singh Mewar Ji's dedication to Mewar and his lifelong commitment to India's cultural heritage will be remembered for generations. My heartfelt condolences to his family and the people of Rajasthan," PM Modi stated.

A Life Dedicated to Public Service and Cultural Preservation - Mahendra Singh served as Chittorgarh's Member of Parliament on a BJP ticket from 1989 to 1994, during which he developed a close bond with former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Known for his dedication to public service, he later joined the Congress, although he was unsuccessful in his subsequent bid. His political legacy endures through his family, with son Vishvaraj Singh serving as MLA and daughter-in-law Mahima Kumari representing Rajasamand in the Lok Sabha.

A Tribute from the Royal Harbinger Group - The Royal Harbinger Group paid a heartfelt tribute, stating: "Mahendra Singh Mewar Ji was not only a custodian of Mewar's proud traditions but also a pillar of strength in the region. His life exemplified dedication to heritage and community, and he leaves behind an unmatched legacy that will inspire future generations."

Contributions to Cultural and Social Institutions - In addition to his political career, Mahendra Singh was deeply involved in social and cultural institutions, serving as President of the Maharana Bhupal Institute and as a key supporter of Mayo College in Ajmer. He was also a patron of the All India Kshatriya Mahasabha and the Mewar Kshatriya Mahasabha, tirelessly working to preserve Mewar's traditions and values.

Family Legacy and Inheritance Dispute - In recent years, Mahendra Singh was embroiled in a dispute with his younger brother, Arvind Singh Mewar, over their family's inheritance. Despite the unresolved legal issues, Mahendra Singh maintained his dedication to the Maharana Mewar Charitable Foundation, co-founded with his father, which has worked to preserve historic properties like the Lake Palace and the Garden Hotel. Although some in Mewar recognized Mahendra Singh as his father's heir, Arvind Singh's influence as a prominent ambassador of Udaipur's heritage remains significant.

A Final Journey Honored by Thousands - Thousands gathered on the streets of Udaipur on Monday, paying their respects to Mahendra Singh as his funeral procession made its way through the city. Mourners lined the route, offering floral tributes, while leaders, including Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, joined in paying respects. His enduring legacy continues through the work of his family and the countless lives he touched.

Shaping India's Future: Reflections from the SPSU Convocation

Bridging Legacy and Vision with Voices of Change

Udaipur - In an assembly of illustrious voices, the Sir Padampat Singhania University (SPSU) Convocation recently became a beacon of discussion and insight into the critical issues facing modern India. Distinguished figures from diverse realms—film, sports, politics, and education—gathered to share their thoughts and visions for the country's future. Among them were celebrated actor Annu Madan Kapoor, hockey legend Dilip Tirkey, Lal Bahadur Shastri's son Sunil Shastri, and SPSU Chancellor Nidhipati Singhania, each bringing unique perspectives on India's socio-cultural journey, untapped potential, and ongoing challenges.

This event, marked by insightful interviews and honored degrees, underscored India's strengths and the pressing need for reform across various sectors. Below is a comprehensive view of each leader's address, their perspectives on national issues, and the way forward for India.

Annu Madan Kapoor: A Call for Mature Freedom and Accountability



Receiving an honorary D.Litt. degree, renowned actor Annu Madan Kapoor described India's freedom as "still in its infancy," shedding light on the country's internal struggles with corruption and misplaced values. Kapoor lamented that citizens themselves contribute to this immaturity by electing corrupt leaders, sometimes swayed by minor temptations. His powerful address underscored a need for greater patriotism and public responsibility, challenging Indians to uphold their freedom with integrity. He urged citizens to avoid the "corrupting influences of modern society" and make choices that truly reflect the spirit of freedom. Kapoor also spoke candidly about changes

in the film industry. Reflecting on past political influences, he remarked that "the days of political goonda-raj influencing Bollywood are gone." Today, he stated, the film industry no longer faces the same threats it once did. Addressing issues of mockery toward Hindu deities, Kapoor implored the public to take a stronger stand, suggesting that society's acceptance of such portrayals perpetuates them. Kapoor's vision for a mature India was thus one where citizens are vigilant, patriotic, and wise in their consumption of culture.

Dilip Tirkey: Unleashing the Potential of Indian Athletes



Former Indian hockey captain Dilip Tirkey, known as the "Wall of Indian Hockey," spoke of immense opportunities awaiting Indian athletes today. Tirkey, awarded an honorary D.Litt. at SPSU, expressed pride in the strides Indian hockey has taken, especially with the recent Olympic performances, bringing the sport closer to regaining its former glory. Tirkey praised Indian athletes for their resilience, particularly in moments like the Olympics, where they showcased perseverance despite challenges.

His vision for the future extended beyond playing on the field. Tirkey emphasized the importance of alternative sports careers, such as coaching and sports management, acknowledging SPSU's upcoming sports management program as a timely solution to address these needs. His commitment to the Olympic dream further reflects his dedication to positioning India as a global sporting powerhouse.

Sunil Shastri: A Persistent Call for Justice for Lal Bahadur Shastri

In an emotional appeal, Sunil Shastri, son of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, called for a high-level investigation into his father's death. Describing Lal Bahadur Shastri as a "true people's leader,"

he spoke of his father's integrity, simplicity, and dedication to India. Shastri's reflections on his father's famous slogan, "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan," highlighted the elder Shastri's far-reaching impact on Indian society, from supporting the nation's soldiers to tackling the country's food crisis.



His call for justice resonated deeply, as he insisted on knowing the truth behind Lal Bahadur Shastri's death. Sunil Shastri's appeal is a reminder of the lingering questions surrounding one of India's greatest leaders, whose life and values continue to inspire countless Indians. His account of Shastri's humble ways, even in the Prime Minister's office, underscored a leadership style rarely seen in modern times.

Nidhipati Singhania: A Vision of Self-Reliance for India's Youth

As the Chancellor of SPSU, Nidhipati Singhania shared his father's vision of an India where youth are "job providers, not job seekers." This commitment to empowering young Indians to be self-reliant has translated into SPSU's efforts to offer voca-



tional courses that align with the demands of a rapidly evolving job market. Nidhipati Singhania emphasized his dedication to equipping students with skills that make them not just employable, but capable of creating employment opportunities for others.

He also shared plans for a new medical college in Kanpur, in partnership with IIT Kanpur, set to launch in the next 18 months. This new institution aims to develop highly skilled doctors using the latest technologies.

Singhania's vision is both pragmatic and forward-thinking, focusing on expanding educational infrastructure and bridging the gap between industry needs and academic learning. SPSU, he declared, is steadily advancing toward becoming a world-class institution, offering Indian students a global education right in their homeland.

Col. Dr. Sanjay Sinha: Pioneering Holistic Education

Col. Dr. Sanjay Sinha, Head of Education and Vice President at J.K. Cement Ltd, championed a holistic approach to education, emphasizing the importance of critical thinking, innovation, and personal growth. His advocacy for comprehensive education models reflected his belief that students should be equipped to thrive in a dynamic world, beyond academic achievements alone. Dr. Sinha's leadership vision is dedicated to bridging the gap between academic training and industry demands, thus ensuring that students are truly prepared for the complexities of modern professional life.



A Vision for India's Future: Voices from the SPSU Convocation

The SPSU Convocation was more than a ceremonial event; it was a crossroads where legacies met with visions for the future.

Annu Kapoor's reflections on cultural integrity, Dilip Tirkey's faith in sports, Sunil Shastri's call for justice, and Nidhipati Singhania's dream for a self-reliant India all offer powerful insights into the country's challenges and potential. As India stands on the cusp of significant socio-economic and cultural transformations, these leaders' insights serve as a roadmap for future generations. Their wisdom underscores a common theme: India's progress hinges on the integrity, innovation, and patriotism of its citizens. These addresses at SPSU, reflecting on everything from athletic opportunities to educational advancements, signal a new era of change, one that promises to propel India forward while honoring its foundational values. The convocation also underscored SPSU's role as a platform for nurturing future leaders who can carry forward this legacy. - Dr. Munesh Arora