

'Address Food Insecurity, Malnutrition, Hunger'

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Dharwad: The University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad, conferred honorary doctorates on Dr Mark A Hussey, Interim President, Texas A&M University, United States of America and Dr Rajendra Singh, the waterman of India, at its 27th annual convocation held here on Thursday.

Pro-Chancellor and state Agriculture Minister Krishna Byregowda presented the degrees in the absence of Governor H R Bhardwaj.

The minister also honoured Nishakumari, who won 10 gold medals for the year 2011-12 and M Malik, who won 12 gold medals for 2012-13 among other students.

As many as 845 candidates were conferred various degrees on the occasion. A total of 576 Undergraduate degrees, 218 Postgraduate Degrees, 51 PhDs and 160 Gold medals were conferred on the occasion.

Delivering the convocation address, Dr Hussey called upon the global community of scholars to collectively work towards solving problems such as food insecurity, malnutrition and hunger.

He said currently one sixth



Agriculture Minister and Pro-Chancellor of the University of Agricultural Sciences Krishna Byregowda conferring honorary doctorates on Dr Mark A Hussey of Texas A&M University and Dr Rajendra Singhji from Rajasthan at the annual convocation in Dharwad on Thursday. Vice-Chancellor Dr D P Biradar looks on. Right: Gold medallists Nishakumari and M Malik, who won 10 and 12 gold medals respectively, showing them after the convocation | EXPRESS PHOTOS

of the world's population is suffering from chronic hunger and at least 3.5 million children die every year globally due to malnutrition. Not only does hunger rob the poor of a healthy and productive life but it also leads them to crime and civil unrest, he added.

He also said time was ripe to act since 9 billion people have to be fed by 2050. He said universities are being affected by the current trend of declining funding to higher education.

Continuing with education, research and discovery in public interest, agriculture

universities must continue to evolve at a pace that matches the fundamental needs of the people, he said.

He advised universities to embrace new ideas, explore new partnerships for funding and effectively communicate the successes of their various programmes in order to help policy makers tackle problems such as food security among others.

Vice Chancellor Dr D P Biradar, deans and faculty members were present.

'Water Conservation a Grave Need'
Karnataka, which was not in,

the list of drought-prone regions prior to Independence, now tops the list.

Though thousands of crores have been spent on water conservation, disciplined use of water and water conservation methods are hardly found here, said Dr Rajendra Singh, popularly called as the Waterman of India for his pioneering work in community based efforts in water harvesting.

Dr Singh was honoured with a honorary doctorate at the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) here on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said Karnataka is one among those states facing acute water scarcity in the country. Dr Singh, whose efforts at water conservation in Rajasthan rejuvenated five seasonal rivers that had dried up, stressed on the need to control water evaporation by linking rain and crop patterns, besides undertaking water conservation, creating ground water deposits among others.

He dedicated the honorary doctorate conferred on him by the UAS to the farmers who had taught him water conservation.

Gold Medallists Hail Parents, Teachers

Nishakumari, the 'Golden Girl' who won 10 gold medals for 2011-12 and M Malik the 'Golden Boy' who won 12 gold medals for 2012-13, both from the Agriculture College Dharwad, shared their happiness with the media on the sidelines of the Annual Convocation at the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) on Thursday.

Nishakumari, who hails from Madhubani district in Bihar, said she was overwhelmed by her achieve-

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— DR MARK A HUSSEY
Interim President, Texas A&M University

ment and credited her success to her teachers and parents.

"The campus has a good environment which helps us concentrate on our studies," she said.

Her parents Arjun Prasad and Meenakumari are teachers while her younger brother is working with the India Space Research Organisation (ISRO). She said she wants to become an entrepreneur.

A job as a Human Resource Manager with Reliance Industries is awaiting her in Mumbai.

M Malik hails from Kopp in Chikmagalur district and is the son of Manjunath M and Lakshmi M.

He dedicated his success to his parents. He said he wants to join the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).