

**Objectionable memory lapse of nation's  
first SNDT Women University by Central Cabinet: *Ram Naik***

**Mumbai, Saturday:** "Does the Central Cabinet wish the country to forget the glorious educational history of the century - old country's first Women's University established by Bharat Ratna Dr. Keshav Dhondo Karve? The announcement by the Central Cabinet made on 11th July about the proposed establishment of the country's 'first' Women University in Raebareli to be named after Smt. Indira Gandhi is not only opportunistic and 2014 election oriented but also obsequious and smacks of utter ignorance of country's educational history", commented Shri Ram Naik, BJP leader and former Petroleum Minister in a press statement issued today.

While explaining his views, Shri Ram Naik said," It is obvious that the decision to establish women's university at the cost of Rs. 500 crore at Raebareli and to name it after late Smt. Indira Gandhi is election oriented. However, to say that this would be the nation's first women's university indicates total ignorance about the history of education in India. Nearly a century back in 1916 the first women's university titled 'The Indian Women's University' was established by Bharat Ratna Maharshi Dr. Dhondo Keshav Karve at Pune. Thereafter in 1951 the name was changed to 'Smt. Nathibai Damodar Thackersey (SNDT) University' under an act. In 1939 Mahatma Gandhi presided over the annual convocation. Moreover in 1941 Dr.S. Radhakrishnan presided over the silver jubilee function, Prime Minister Pandit Nehru conferred Bharat Ratna on Maharshi Karve in 1958, Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi presided over the golden jubilee function in 1966, Telecommunications Minister Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma released special commemoration stamp to mark the diamond jubilee in 1976 followed by the platinum jubilee function in 1991. Is it not shocking that the former Chairman of University Grants Commission and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has forgotten it? Is it that Agricultural Minister Shri Sharad Pawar and Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde who belong to Maharashtra were not attentive in the cabinet meeting or have they forgotten Maharashtra's glorious history in Delhi's political environment?" questioned Shri Naik.

"The SNDT University not only laid the foundation of the women's education but successfully began the era of women's empowerment. I strongly condemn this 'loss of memory' by the Cabinet. Since there are many projects named after Smt. Indira Gandhi, I would suggest to name the proposed university after anyone like Smt. Savitribai Phule, Bhagini Nivedita, Dr. Anandi Joshi, Smt. Ramabai Ranade who had contributed for women's education and empowerment in the last century. I have conveyed my feelings to Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and also to Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi", stated Shri Ram Naik at the end.

**(Office Secretary)**

**Encl: Press Release of the Cabinet meeting.**

**Press Information Bureau  
Government of India  
Cabinet**

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**Setting up of Indira Gandhi National University for Women at Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh**

The Union Cabinet has approved setting up a National University for Women in Uttar Pradesh by the name of "The Indira Gandhi National University for Women". This will be the first university of the country to be established exclusively for women. The university will be located at Raebareli in Uttar Pradesh.

A bill, namely, the Indira Gandhi National University for Women Bill, 2013 will be introduced in the coming Monsoon Session of Parliament. After the passage of the Bill, steps will be taken to set up the University.

The cost involved is Rs.500 crore during the 12th Plan period.

This would set the pace for all round growth and development of women in the country and supplement the efforts of the Government for women's empowerment by giving them an increased access to employment oriented basic courses and high end research.

Of the total population of the country at 121 crore, there are 58.6 crore women of which 9.5 crore are in Uttar Pradesh.

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