

TWENTY FIFTH CONVOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY

Welcome Speech of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. V.M. Mayande

Today on the eve of 25th Convocation of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, the Agricultural University named after the distinguished son of Vidarbha and spirit behind Indian agricultural development, patron of farmers, an ever inspirational person and incessant source of charity for the masses. I pay my sincere tributes to the great soul Dr. Panjabrao *alias* Bhausahab Deshmukh. It gives me immense pleasure to welcome, Shri.RadhaKrishna Vikhe Patil Hon'ble Pro-Chancellor and Minister of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra, Chief guest of 25th convocation Dr. N.G. Hegde Principal Advisor, BAIF Development Research Foundation Pune, Guest of honour Dr. Bangali Baboo National Director (NAIP) ICAR, New Delhi, Sh. Vijayraoji Kolte Vice-Chairman, Maharashtra Council of Agricultural, Education and Research, Pune. It is my pleasure to welcome Honourable Members of the Executive Council, former Vice-Chancellors, Members of the Academic Council, all dignitaries, candidates receiving Degrees and Honours, Faculty, members of Board of Studies, invitees, farmers, Journalists, Media Core, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On this occasion I introduce to you Hon'ble Pro-Chancellor of the University, who is a agricultural graduate and has in-depth knowledge , his guidance has helped us in developmental activities of the University.

I take pleasure of welcoming today's Chief Guest Dr. Narayan G. Hegde, completed his M.S. (Horticulture) Ph.D. - Economics (Social Forestry), University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii and Programme for Management in Agriculture (PMA) from IIM, Ahmedabad .He is specialized in Natural Resource Management, Sustainable Livelihood and Community Development, Environmental Education and Conservation, Organizational Development.

He has worked as Executive Secretary, Vice President , Executive Vice President from 1974 to 2009 at BAIF Development Research Foundation, Pune

He had written more than 200 scientific and technical papers in national and international journals. Author and editor of 20 books including 5 books for children for creating environmental awareness.

He has worked in the different capacity as Managing Trustee – Nisargopchar Gram Sudhar Trust, Urulikanchan, Pune, Member – Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet, Government of India, National Afforestation and Eco-development Board, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, Executive Council and General Council of National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, Ministry

of Rural Areas and Employment, Government of India, Expert Committee for S & T for Women, Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, Advisory Council – CII- ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, Board of Trustees, AME Foundation, Bangalore; Senate, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Agri Biotech Foundation, Hyderabad; Board of Directors, Ushdev International Ltd., Mumbai; Expert Committee to review Livestock Breeding Policy of Orissa, Fisheries and Animal Resource Development Department, Government of Orissa; Academic Advisory Committee of the Regional Training College, NABARD, Mangalore; Member Ombudsman – Selection Committee, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for Maharashtra, Chairman – Board of Children’s Future, India, Pune; Trustee - National Agro Foundation, Chennai, founded under the Chairmanship of Bharat Ratna Late Shri. C. Subramaniam; Guide for Ph.D. and M.Phil. in Environmental Studies, University of Poona

He is awarded with National Award by the National Council of Educational Research and Training, Government of India, New Delhi for the book ‘Mother Nature’ under the category of ‘Best Literature for Children’. Vocational Service Award by Rotary Club of Poona West. Community Welfare Award by Indian Merchants’ Chamber Diamond Jubilee Endowment Trust Award 2003, Mumbai.

Our guest of honour Dr. Bangali Baboo obtained B. Tech. (Agril. Engg.) in 1974, M. Tech. (Agril. Engg.) in 1976 from G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar (Uttarakhand) and Ph.D. (Mech. Engg.) in 1996 from Lucknow University. During education he received College Merit Certificate for achieving scholastic standards and ICAR first prize in Skills in Agricultural Engineering. He started his career in 1976 as Scientist (Farm Machinery and Power) through all India Agricultural Research Service (ARS) joining Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Presently he is National Director of World Bank funded National Agricultural Innovation Project with Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. During the intervening period held several research management positions. These are Director, Indian Institute of Natural Resins and Gums, Ranchi; Director, Indian Lac Research Institute, Ranchi; Project Coordinator, All India Coordinated Project on Jaggery and Khandsari, Lucknow; Network Coordinator of all India Network Project on Natural Resins and Gums, Ranchi; Head of Division (Structures and Environmental Control), Ludhiana besides scientific positions at all levels.

He handled several multidisciplinary research projects centered around post harvest technology in 23 crops and commodities from different Ministries of Govt. of India as also Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Fellow of the Institution of Engineers (India); Fellow, Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers; Fellow,

Sugar Technologists Association of India, he has several professional recognitions and 200 publications in national and international journals. His initiatives led to start of two national level programmes in post harvest technology besides upgrading and expanding Indian Lac Research Institute into Indian Institute of Natural Resins and Gums.

Shri. Vijayraoji Kolte, Vice President, Maharashtra Council of Agricultural Education and Research, Pune. During his tenure, Agricultural Universities in Maharashtra has excel in Agricultural Education and Research. He has initiated the mission to strengthen the irrigation facilities on Universities farms, which has enables the University to implement mass seed production programmes.

This convocation of the University is another landmark for all of us. It gives opportunity to self appraisal and aspires for tomorrow. Sir, this University was established on 20th October, 1969 with a sole objective of elevating socio-economic status of farmers, with the mandate of Agricultural Education, Research and Extension Education as specified in the Maharashtra Agricultural Universities Act, 1983 and production of breeder and foundation seed are our prime responsibilities. The jurisdiction of this University is the entire Vidarbha region.

Maharashtra is richly endowed with outstanding agricultural research and educational infrastructure both in public and private sectors. The Vidarbha farmers are diligent and innovative inspite of all the adversities. Looking at the distress of farmers during the decade, the University had taken up the number of programmes to boost the moral and elevate the socio-economic status of the farmers of region.

The Directorate of Extension Education has undertaken various extension education activities in 11 districts of Vidarbha region. It has Training Publications, Agricultural Technology Information Centre, Krishi Vigyan Kendra's, Services of Telephone helpline, Transfer of Technology Unit of Agriculture and Allied College/ schemes, Mobile Agro-Clinic and Agri-business advisory services.

The university publications includes *Krishi Sanwadini*, *Krishi Calendar*, *Krishi Patrika*. University scientists answer the queries of farmers online on every Thursday 'Hello Kastakar' programme at Akashwani Yeotmal & *Krishi Vani* programme, helpline have benefited thousands of farmers in the region.

Apart from organizing On-farm Testing and Front Line Demonstrations, KVKs also organize several extension activities like need based vocational trainings, field days, *Kisan Melas*, exhibitions, diagnostic field visits, publications, soil testing services etc. *Krishi Doots*, Youth selected from village are being trained in batch of 50 from cluster of 10 villages regularly linking villages with knowledge centres.

Kharif Shivar Pheri programme was organized on 20 to 22nd October 2010, wherein, over 4335 farmers participated. The programme on the eve of celebration of 112th birth anniversary of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh was organized at Amravati during 27-29th December 2010. Over 3 Lakh farmers participated during three days exhibition. University organised an interactive session with *Kirtankar* and *Pravachankar* who deliver the religious discourses fortnightly on *Ekadashi* Day to pass on the messages on crop production technologies, pest and disease management, field operations etc.

Krishak Vigyan Manch also an interaction forum of scientists and farmers is established by Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola at 102 locations in Vidarbha has now membership of over 23,000 farmers

The university has well equipped farmer's hostel with training and lodging facility to the men and women farmers. The University in Collaboration with Sir Ratan Tata Trust is implementing the project for distress farmers in the form of Training and Capacity Building for dissemination of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Technology. University appreciate the Ratan Tata Trust for adopting Dr.PDKV model reaching each village through *Krishi Doot*. University is also executing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in collaboration with Cotton Corporation of India at Kotha (Veni) Dist. Yavatmal, Parada & Wadgaon villages in Dist. Buldhana. The University also organized a brain storming on "Strategies for integrated development of Gondia and Gadchiroli districts", at Nagpur on 19th Aug., 2010, which was graced by Dr. Abhijeet Sen, Member, Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi, Scientists, Govt. officials, Panchayat Rajya Institutes, and authorities from Nagpur Division were also present.

Here, I remember well-known quote of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, I quote "Agriculture is for living; mind culture is for life. Skills are for shaping material things so that they cater more for the comfort of man; studies are for shaping attitudes, feelings, desires, emotions and impulses of man, so that they may confer more peace, more joy and more fortitude on man." Quotation end.

University is imparting instructional programme leading to the degree courses in Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Agricultural Engineering, Food technology, Biotechnology and Agri-Business Management through 7 constituents, 2 affiliated and 20 private non-grant colleges. The intake capacity for Degree and Post Graduate is 1795 and 470, respectively.

Doctoral programme is offered in the faculty of Agriculture and Agricultural Engineering with total intake capacity of 51 students. Besides this, University also offers two years diploma programme in agriculture in two Rural Institutes and one year mali training entrepreneurship certificate course. The university has recently started

“Certificate Course on Organic Agriculture *w.e.f* from Nov.2010 with the intake capacity of 30 students. Under Centrally sponsored scheme National Horticulture Mission one year fruit and Vegetable processing Diploma has been started at the Department of Horticulture Dr PDKV Akola with an objective to develop the entrepreneurship in Vidarbha region. Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth is the first Agriculture University which is operating this course successfully.

This year amongst 1268 recipients 674 students are taking degrees in person, which includes 518 graduates, 151 Masters and 05 Doctorate degrees.

So far, 21272 Graduates, 6113 Masters and 442 Doctorate degrees have been awarded by this University. Today on the eve of this Convocation, 1024 Graduands, 237 Masters and 07 Doctoral degrees will be conferred. For the meritorious performance and excellence, 71 Medals and Awards are being presented to the deserving students and staff. This year University is awarding First Dr.P.S.Khankhoje Gold Medal sponsored by Dr.P.S.Khankhoje Smarak Samiti Nagpur on All India basis for outstanding contribution in the field of Agriculture & Allied Sciences. The first award has gone to Dr.N.S.Raghuwanshi ,Professor at IIT,Kharakpur. University has initiated from this year ICAR Best Teacher Award. In this category first five best teachers are selected from two Agriculture, one each from Agri.Engg, Horticulture and forestry have been awarded this year

Under Lower Agricultural Educational programme, there are 7 constituents, 1 affiliated and 46 private school on non-grant basis. This year university is also initiated a new Agricultural Technology School at Dharni (Melghat) especially to cater the needs of the tribal area. This initiative came from the Hon’ble Minister of Agriculture and Marketing Sh.RadhaKrishna Vikhe –Patil. In addition, we have two Rural Institutes and two Mali Training Centres, wherein two years Certificate Course in Agriculture and one year Mali Training Certificate Course are being offered. The Maharogi Seva Samiti, Anandwan is going to start Agricultrue Technical School at Warora from this year.

We have four Libraries in this University, with the Central University Library located at Akola with 1, 50990 books, 87periodicals, thesis and research Journals. The library is also digitalized and equipped with AGRIS and AGRICOLA CD-ROM. ARIS Cell providing 24 hrs uninterrupted internet connectivity services to all staff and students through leased line of 1Gbps speed from BSNL under NMEICT project, distributed at 250 nodes through Local Area Network.

University has updated the website www.pdkv.ac.in with Web Mail facility. ARIS Cell has successfully computerized and installed OMR technology to evaluate the answer sheets for recruitments in the University.

University has initiated the process of signing MOU with ICAR institutes, Private and Public Business Establishments and Educational Institutes for M.Sc. and Ph.D. students research, which will expose the students and give opportunity to obtain different fellowship and to work with scientist of International repute. It will help them for their personal needs and future development.

The University and its six constituent colleges have been granted accreditation by ICAR for five years i.e. till 2013. The College of Forestry, Akola has been accredited by Indian Council of Agricultural and Research, New Delhi and Indian Council Forest Research and Education, Dehradun.

This year Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers in collaboration with Dr.PDKV, Akola jointly organised 45th ISAE Convention and International Symposium on "Water for Agriculture" during 17th to 19th Jan.2011 at Nagpur Campus.

The university also organised two ICAR sponsored 21 days winter schools on 'Biomass conversion and Utilization of Sustainable Energy Development in the Deptt. Of UCE & EE and & 'Entrepreneurship Development and Management' in Department of Extension Education.

One day workshop on the cultivation of the medicinal and the aromatic plants was jointly organized by Dr.PDKV & National Horticulture Mission Govt. of Maharashtra on 15th June 2010

The university has successfully executed the organization of the 14th Maharashtra State Inter University Ashwamegh Games Competition -2010, from 27th Nov. to 1st Dec.2010. The total of 18 Universities of Maharashtra state had participated in the event.

The university also organise intercollegiate competition in cultural events '*Apli Mati Apla Maharashtra*' at College of Agriculture, Akola during January 10 – 13, 2010.

Ku. Renuka Shinde, M.Sc student selected for ASPEE foundation scholarship for P. G. Research in Entomology. Shri. P. N. Magar, M.Sc. student bagged first prize for his presentation on "Easy Rescue from Dengue" and Miss. Shikha Kaushik, 2nd year B. Sc. (Hort.) student won second prize in Aviskar 2010-11 organized by Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik. Dr Atul S. Thakare, Ph.D student Deptt. Entomology has been invited by Director, Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow for delivering a special lecture on "Insecticide Resistance Management" as a young scientist. Two students has been selected as 'Assistant Conservator of Forest' through Maharashtra Public Service Commission, Three students have been selected as 'Range Forest Officer' through Maharashtra Public Service Commission. Mr. Vijay Kakade and Mr. C. M. Avachare from Horticulture topped in

JRF examination in India. An NCC cadet of College of Forestry has attended ATC camp, National Integration camp and 'AWHAN' a special camp during 2009-10. A special NSS camp was organized at Village Varkhed (Shindkhed Moreshwar), Tq. Barshitakali, Dist. Akola with 25 student of the College of Forestry, Akola during 15.01.2010 to 21.01.2010. University has established Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Competitive Forum at Akola and Nagpur campus for guidance and preparations for competitive examinations. The University has succeeded in conducting campus interview for students in which 27 students were selected in getting service in reputed firms, banks, companies etc during the current academic year.

Sir, since 1995, the NSS workers of the University have successfully bagged the State Level Award for their social service. Ku. Arti A. Maske, students of College of Agriculture, Akola has bagged NSS State Level best Volunteer award.

Under the Sports & Research Festival event Ku. Rashmi D. Thakare students of Shri. Shivaji Bio Tech College, Amravati bagged the Second Prize. Seven N.C.C. cadets attended "AVHAN" Disaster Training Camp 20th organized by Mumbai University, Mumbai from 24/12/2010 to 1/1 /2011.

Dr. V.M. Mayande was awarded. ISAE Gold Medal for his outstanding contribution in the field of Agricultural Engineering and Dr. P.M. Nimkar was awarded ISAE fellowship award.

Dr. Shivcharan M. Thakare, Associate Professor of Entomology has got "Dr. M. Puttarudriah Memorial Endowment National Award" for outstanding plant protection work in India on 3rd April 2010 at IAT, Bangalore.

Ms. Sukeshni Vane, Ph. D. student, Department of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering received the fellowship worth Rs. 17.00 lakhs from DST, Ministry for Science and Technology, GOI under Women Scientist Scheme.

Shri R.R. Shelke, Assistant Professor, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Science has received 'Young Scientist' award.

Dr. N. M. Kale received Jawaharlal Nehru Award from ICAR, New Delhi for outstanding research work in Ph.D. on farmer's suicide in Vidarbha. The university has undertaken scientific research projects on farmers suicide and most important findings of the research was "Multifactor complex inclusive of indebtedness, consistent crop failure, health problem, introvertness, impulsiveness and domestic disputes are responsible for distress leading to suicide, Dr.PDKV published policy brief on farmers suicide recommended planers and policy makers 8 points which include easy access to credit, remunerative prices on local conditions, crops, animals, human insurance, social

security, creating water resources , easy credit for initiating subsidiary occupation, spiritual counselling centres at Panchayat level . “

Many dignitaries visited the university campus during 2010 Shri. Rahulji Gandhi, Member of Parliament visited University campus on 07-09-2010 and interacted with the student of the university on various agricultural related issues.

Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture Shri. Sharad Pawar along with Deputy Chief Minister, Finance Minister , Agriculture Minister , Food Minister, Forest Minister visited University Campus on 18/09/2010 and inaugurated Extended Administrative Building, Agro-Tourism Centre and *Matsyabeej Utpadan Kendra*

The Agriculture Research Council sets the research priorities based on current trends and future needs, accordingly the research projects are formulated by the university scientists.

Some of the most important themes are climate change resilience, Conservation of biodiversity, QTL mapping of economic crops, Crop diversification in Agriculture, Organic farming, Post harvest processing and value addition, Development of genotypes of different crops for special traits (quality & quantity) resistant /tolerant to various pests/diseases, biotic and abiotic stresses and gender equity issues in agriculture.

University has 85 sponsored ongoing projects which includes 25 AICRP-ICAR projects, 19 Ad-hoc schemes, 31 State sponsored schemes, 5 National Horticulture Mission schemes, 5 TMC projects besides the financial assistance received under Central Assistance from the ICAR. The research activities are carried out through 19 Agricultural Research Stations, 17 Departments under Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and 25 Crop Research Units in Vidarbha. Recently the Regional Research Centre Amravati affirmed as Main Center for Soybean Research by All India Coordinated Research Project on Soybean, DSR(ICAR, New, Delhi), Indore(MP).The university had evolved 1071 technologies on crop production, pest management, soil and water management, green house, bio-techniques, post harvest etc. which proved effective on the cultivator's field. The 140 varieties and 14 hybrids of different crops were released by the university so far. The university produced 10898 quintal of seed of which 1741 qtls. of breeder seed,639 qtls. foundation seed, 1683 qtls. certified seed and 6892 qtls. is truthful seed respectively.

This year the university has released 'PKV-Raj' bold grain & downy mildew resistant variety of Bajara, PKV –Washim drought tolerant variety of wheat, PKV- Harita a green seeded variety of Chickpea. PPV & FRA recognised Seed Technology Research Unit for conducting DUS Testing of Pigeonpea and Safflower. This year 63 varieties of

Pigeonpea and 27 varieties of Safflower were screened for DUS testing. Two varieties of sorghum PKV *Kranti* and AKSSV 22 has been accepted by PPV & FRA for registration.

The University is the consortium partner for the three NAIP projects namely, (i) Visioning, Policy Analysis and Gender (VPAGe) at Deptt. Of Agricultural Economics, (ii) Sustainable Rural Livelihood Security in Backward District of Maharashtra: Linseed Intervention, and (iii) A Value Chain on Linseed: Processing and Value Addition for Profitability at AICRP on Linseed & Sesamum, College of Agriculture, Nagpur.

The INDO –Israel project on Citrus Improvement and Indo-Canadian Project on Linseed Biotechnology “Towards genetic improvement of flax for oil and agronomic traits” are also being implemented at College of Agriculture, Nagpur.

The technical research programmes ‘All India Networking Research Project on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ICAR)’ An ad-hoc project on ‘Development of Agrotechniques of medicinal plant species used as a *Dashmool* in Ayurveda’ being implemented with the financial assistance from National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI, New Delhi.

Biotechnology Centre of University has five well equipped laboratories for doing advance research in biotechnology. Keeping in view the regional requirement of Vidarbha, the research on the most important problems on the major crops has been initiated which includes development of transgenic pigeonpea and cotton for resistance to pod borer and bollworm respectively using *Cry IF* gene from *Bacillus thuringiensis*. The sucking pest problem in safflower is being tackled through introduction of lectin gene in the safflower. Similarly in case of soybean, research programme is initiated to know the severity of ‘*No Podding Syndrome*’ which is an emerging threat in the production of soybean in Central India. Through molecular and biochemical marker assisted selection, the study on selection of mungbean yellow mosaic virus resistant soybean, identification of pod borer resistance in chickpea and understanding the biochemical aspects of *Spodoptera* resistance in soybean is also in progress.

The University is having well equipped laboratories for research and development, mass multiplication, and testing of HaNPV and Trichocards, biofertilizers, bio-control agents, and decomposing cultures for catering the need for quality organic inputs to farmers.

The University has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 12 ICAR Institutes, 3 Seed Companies and 7 private firms for Research & Development in priority areas in Agriculture. For development of BG –II cotton hybrid for central zone the university has signed MoU with J.K. Agri-Genetic limited. The College of Agricultural Engineering signed MoU with eleven industries for licensing to manufacture various Agriculture implements such as PKV Mini dal mill ,BBF planter

cum inter –row cultivator, PDKV sorghum harvester, PDKV self propelled toolbar operated multicrop reaper/soybean harvester, PDKV fruit grader and PKV chilli Seed extractor.

Looking into the labour shortage for the picking of the cotton, the performance trials of imported cotton pickers of M/S John Deere Equipments Ltd. & M/S New Holland fiat India Ltd. had been conducted at the University farm. The University has also initiated the collaborative research work for the development of cotton picker under technology Mission on Cotton programme with Saint Gajanan Technology Institute Shegaon. The university recently established the Agro-Processing centre at Aasti Hatgaon, Distt. Akola, also six demonstration units for dal milling at Haterna, Bramhanwada thadi, Checharwadi Mangkinhi, , Malkapur Pangra, and Malegaon Bazar villages in the University jurisdiction. The two institutional biogas plants were established. Under the scheme 'scaling up of water productivity university trained 65 officers and 1164 farmers sponsored by ICAR.

Under Crop Pest Surveillance and Advisory Project, 31700 online advisories twice a week were issued for management of pest of four major crops like cotton, soybean, pigeonpea and chickpea. This initiative helped to keep the pest population below economic threshold level.

Under National Project on Insect Biosystematics, we have preserved about 14412 insect specimens in addition to 1400 heritage collection. The students, scientists, extension worker and farmers are taking the advantage of the same for identification and management of the pests.

University has "*Nagarjun Vanaushadhi Udyan*" wherein 360 medicinal and aromatic plants species are being maintained. *Telankhadi* and *Mahrajbag* gardens at Nagpur have beautiful lawns, aquarium, Children Park, fountains, ornamental, flowering plants and shrubs. *Satpuda* Botanical Garden at Nagpur is spread on 25 ha. area, having 851 different plant species is registered Biodiversity Park under International Institute of Botanical Garden Conservation, London.

The university is also maintaining the germplasm of nine indigenous breeds of cattle.

Here I must express my gratitude towards the State Govt. for firmly standing behind the University, so that the University could make progress towards achieving the set goals. Funding from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has also helped the University to make qualitative change in student education technology. Support for modernization at university farm was very valuable to enhance seed production. Council's funding for KVKs has also helped in strengthening the infrastructure for

transfer of Technology and organization of extension activity. Special ICAR support of Rs.15 corer to centenary old collage of Agriculture, Nagpur is greatly acknowledge.

In view to provide immediate arrangement of accommodation to the students, construction of boy's hostel at Akola, establishment of constituent Agricultural Colleges at Washim, Achalpur, Selsura (Wardha) and Gondia, Special Research Station to solve the problems of Salian and Alkaline Soils in the region, Agricultural Business School, Organic Farming Certificate Course, to start skill oriented new courses and to develop new extension models, the Maharashtra Government and ICAR should provide sufficent financial assistance. I take this opportunity to request the State Govt. as well as ICAR to consider these demand and provide necessary funding.

FEW WORDS FOR YOUNG GRADUANTS

Youth period is of great strength and development. The youth physically, intellectually and emotionally is the ideal of mankind. Here I would like to quote Swami Vivekanand who says "We are responsible for what we are, and whatever we wish ourselves to be, we have the power to make ourselves. If what we are now has been the result of our own past actions, it certainly follows that whatever we wish to be in future can be produced by our present actions; so we have to know how to act. Take up one idea. Make that one idea of your life - think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success that is way great spiritual giants are produced." I want to talk with you as youth, as a group of youth who care about our Nation. One thing is certain: You will inherit the world better or for worse. You will inherit what we, the older generation, leave to you, and you will hopefully do better than we have done in preserving this beautiful planet and the diversity of its life forms. You will hopefully do better in achieving and maintaining peace on our planet. You will also have the eventual responsibility, as each generation does, to pass the world on in tact to the next generation.

Be strong, my young friends, that is my advice to you. Strength is the medicine for the world's disease. Strength is life, weakness is death. Strength is felicity, life eternal, immortal; weakness is constant strain and misery, weakness is death.

The day of Convocation is a special occasion in the life of you young Graduands. The parchments that have been handed over in the form of degrees, signify your respective educational attainments. It is beginning of another important voyage. The discipline and education, which you have imbibed here, would be you're first and foremost asset. In your endeavour to acquire higher positions, you would face with the myriad trials and tribulations, sometimes bordering on struggle for existence or even survival. Success would depend upon various factors including opportunities,

aptitude and applications. While you re-orient your lives and attitudes to tailor them to suit the requirements of the tasks before you, the institution, which has moulded you, would expect you to remember the importance of morals, ethics, scruples and discipline. Character is a matter of gradual and guided growth in which the parents and teachers play a decisive role. The absolute integrity, devotion to duty, moral vision, courtesy and desire to achieve perfection, spirit of liberal and secular outlook, self-confidence and fearlessness should be your hallmark.

Dear students, you have brought laurels to this institution through your academic achievements and extra-curricular performances. Please remember that while discharging any duty, you hold on to the morals and teaching that you have gained through your parents, teachers and all the Saints. Let your personality speak through your whole hearted works. It is now time for you to prove yourselves worthy of the investment, which this institution and your parents have made in shaping you. I would extend my heartiest congratulations to every one of you who have received degrees, and awards of excellence.

I offer my best wishes to all those who received degrees and prizes today, and scholars, faculty members and staff of the University to keep up *esprit de corps* and academic attainments. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank Hon'ble Pro-Chancellor and Minister of Agriculture and Marketing, Government of Maharashtra Sh.RadhaKrishna Vikhe Patil, Chief guest of 25th convocation Dr. N.G. Hegde Principal Advisor, BAIF Development Research Foundation Pune, Guest of honour Dr. Bangali Baboo National Director (NAIP) ICAR, New Delhi, Sh. Vijayraoji Kolte Vice-Chairman, Maharashtra Council of Agricultural, Education and Research, Pune for keen interest and active support in development of this University. I am grateful to ICAR, New Delhi for liberal funding to support and strengthen our programmes and activities.

I wish to convey my deep sense of appreciation to Honourable members of the Executive Council, Academic Council, Board of Studies all the dignitaries present, Faculties, staff members and students for their interest and continued co-operation for the development of the University. I am confident that with their involvement and ever growing support from the Government of Maharashtra and ICAR, the University will be in a position to meet its onerous mandate in an appreciable manner and prove to be the high ranking institution at national and international levels.

Thank you all!

Jay Hind!