



Estd : 1962  
NAAC 'A' Grade

## **55<sup>th</sup> Convocation Address**

by

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Namaskar and a Very Good afternoon to all of you. Honourable Governor of the state & Chancellor of the university, Shri. Ch. Vidyasagar Rao-ji, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Devanand Shinde-ji, Officers of University, Members of the Senate, Management Council, Academic Council, Principals and Directors of various constituent colleges, faculty, staff, students, distinguished invitees, guests and most importantly, the graduating students, the proud parents of these graduating students, media persons, Ladies & Gentlemen, I deem it to be a great privilege and an absolute honour to be here amongst you on the occasion of 55<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of Shivaji University, this afternoon.

Shivaji university is a prominent university which has made its mark in the state as well as the country in the realm of higher education as well as research. In the last couple of decades, the university has made tremendous progress in terms of its courses, programmes, number of students, faculty and colleges. I am immensely pleased to share with you all the fact that out of 54 universities (state, central & deemed) in the state of Maharashtra today, Shivaji university is the only university which has the unique distinction of having produced a Director of the prestigious IIM of the country. I am fortunate enough to have graduated 30 years ago, from this university and I am grateful to my Alma mater for having enabled me to achieve this distinction.

At the outset, let me congratulate all of you who have received degrees and won medals, awards and prizes on successful completion of your academic programmes from this esteemed university. Your achievements have made all of us

proud. It is the result of your sheer hard work and strong determination. Needless to say, today is the proud moment of your academic accomplishment and a matter of great joy and enjoyment in your life. Significantly, it also marks the completion of one stage of your life and another one is about to begin.

Today, you are graduating and would be working in an era marked by cutting edge technology and infinite information, which has tremendous implications for your being, working and living. During my student days, terms like, internet, computer, google, e-books, e-resources, online courses like MOOCs, power point etc. were neither known, nor anything like that was known to exist in any form not even in the wildest dreams! My dear graduating students, today you are all lucky because you are citizens of the digital world. You are born in the knowledge era fostered by gadgets like, laptop, tablet, smart phones, smart watches, social media like, twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn etc. In those days, India along with China was mostly known as one of the most populated and economically backward country of the world. Today, it is your moment, India has truly become a global force and is the fastest growing economy of the world. According to some estimates, very soon, India will take over other leading countries to become one of the top three economies of the world. This fact coupled with the demographic dividend the country is going to enjoy shortly by means of being the country with largest number of young population of the world would mean that there is unprecedented opportunity available to you out there in the market. Obviously, this also signifies that there will be huge expectations from the new generation of millennials like you. In such a circumstances, many of you will be moving out of the safe environs of your college and entering into the real competitive world out there. Some of you may be required to engage in new kind of jobs which do not even exist today. The real world out there demands highest order of skill, competence and ultimately, performance.

I want you to remember that performance leads to recognition. Recognition leads to respect. Respect leads to power. Therefore, my friends, there is only one way to make your university and nation proud and that is through execution or performance. This can only be achieved by making excellence as a habit in our day-to-day life. The life is not about finding yourself; life is about creating yourself. There are no limits to what you can accomplish the limitation exists only in your mind. Therefore, another important aspect everybody needs to keep in mind is that “your life is a result of choices you make”.

In this context, let me recall a statement of Shri Ajim Prem ji, who says that, "If people are not laughing at your goals, your goals are too small". So you all need to see big picture and set Himalayan goals to achieve or climb your own Everest. i.e. to better your performance. This precisely means challenge yourself to think about your own disruption. Get comfortable with discomfort to remain certain in a more uncertain world.

Better performance comes from best practice benchmarking. Once you start benchmarking, the next step for you is to aim to be the global leader. I remember here a beautiful definition given by our great saint, Swami Vivekananda, "Leader is the one who thinks the unthinkable, achieve the unachievable and see the invisible". The key feature of a leader is 'dare to be different'. A sign of good leader is not how many followers you have, but how many leaders you create.

You become a leader by creating a set of best practices. Best practices are the outcome of novelty and innovation. Whatever you do, just ask how you can make it cheaper, faster and better. I feel that innovation must become part of the DNA of everyone in the organization from the bottom to the top.

Father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi said, "the future depends on what we do in the present". Somebody has beautifully said "Yesterday of tomorrow is today". Today is the "VUCA" world. It is the digital world. Therefore, you should be the first one to adopt the technology and if not then you should never be the last one. As per Gartner's report, today, in the era of industry 4.0, more than 3 million jobs globally are supervised by the Roboboss. Ordinary robots are supervised by the smart robots. In near future robots sit on the boards of the companies and provide data to the board for making fruitful and unbiased decisions. According to Deloitte, out of the 1200 behaviours of the human beings 65 behaviours have been added in robots. Future is going to be different, robots will take up the repetitive and mundane jobs. Our roles are going to change continuously due to automation and artificial intelligence. The Accenture, an IT company calls this force as "liquid workforce". To take up the constantly changing roles, it is important to focus on Lifelong Learning for reskilling and upskilling on continuous basis to remain in the vibrant business market. Therefore, never stop learning, life never stops teaching. This is an innovative and disruptive world. Be a disruptor using latest technology and innovation.

Whatever the business or role you enter in the corporate world, you have to have laser focus. No back up plan. The minute you have back up plan, you have admitted

that you are not going to succeed. At the same time, do not get fear of failure. I definitely believe that in order to be successful, you must take risks. So never give up. Magic happens when you do not give up. Henry Ford once said, "Treat failure as the opportunity to begin again more intelligently" Thanks to the difficult times and failures, it's during those times, I climbed the ladders faster than ever in my career. I can say confidently that my success is all due to failures.

Lead with Character. In order to be great, one cannot compromise the uncompromisable. Never give up Indian ethos and business ethics in your journey of life. During the global financial crisis of 2008, many companies in UK and US disappeared, however, during the same time, Indian companies not only performed well but also many companies went ahead with increase of salaries. Thus during difficult time, Indian ethos act as the powerful weapon to stand up in the global business.

From nearly three decades of my work exposure and by travelling to more than 25 countries across 4 continents, the most valuable lessons I have learnt include humility, patience and compassion.

You are graduating from the one of the best institutions, the Shivaji university, Kolhapur which has earned a very high reputation and recognition. You are going to be doing either really well in your life or exceptionally well. I would say realise your potential with crazy amount of passion and make yourself, your parents, your university, your state and your country India proud.

In summary, I suggest five mantras for the graduating students for leading a successful life in future:

- a. Dare to be different : The life is not about finding yourself, life is about creating yourself
- b. Dream big : Keep Himalayan goal to achieve and climb your own Everest
- c. Introspect & Innovate : Keep improving continuously and Make excellence as habit
- d. Adopt the technology : learn, unlearn and relearn on continuous basis and become disruptor of technology
- e. Finally, Practice Indian ethos and business ethics in all walks of your life.

I am sure that each one of you will be successful in your life. Finally, once again, I wish you all good luck for your future endeavours.

Thank you.

Jai Maharashtra and Jai Hind.

