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Ladies and gentlemen, convocation is like churning the sea and bringing out the best jewels and felicitating them. Your motto is 'Where Knowledge is nectar'. I remember our Lord Dhanwantari. Being a pediatric surgeon by profession. I rememeber our Lord Dhanwantari who has a pitcher of Nectar in his hand but look at the other three hands there is a conch, a leech and a wheel. The wheel signifies progress and reforms in education. The leech signifies what is not suitable for the time must be removed and the conch is significant that we can voice our feelings and demand the best for our future generation. The nectar pitcher is preventive medicine. which is very important in these days when we have disease like diabetes high blood pressure, asthma, tuberculosis, malaria and of course the AIDS which is devastating and disastrous. In addition we have disasters, like floods and famine to face. I am happy to see the Health Centre which not only has the equipment for diagnosis but also maintaing records of the health check up. What is more important is that through this centre, awareness programmes are conducted for the prevention of diseases. This health centre can also be very gainfully utilised even in the remote parts by tele communication and tele medicine. Since the eleventh five year plan has already started, I refer to a different area of research. In India, half of the national income is derived from agriculture and thus constitutes the very foundation for national economy. Superiority of agriculture over industry is accepted by one and all. Agriculture not only sustains without industry but it aids the birth of Industry. Agriculture is the mainstay of majority of Indian population in the unorganized sector including women. When we talk of empowerment of women, we rarely focus on problems in agriculture, which is still seen as the domain of males, the role of women in technical development in agriculture has not received adequate attention. Agriculture, food processing, composting technology, mushroom technology, medicinal plants, sericulture, poultry, aquaculture, diary and animal rearing are the main areas of transfer of technology into women hands and this can increase the level of productivity.

It is, therefore, necessary to focus on the plight of women farmers afflicted by various deficiencies particularly anaemia and infections. This will affect the pregnant mother and ultimately the child who is our future.

In this context, Shivaji University has an advantage. Being a part of evergreen western Maharashtra, Kolhapur with its excellence in education, the educationists could review how our vast research, educational and extension infrastructure could be retooled and restructured to meet the challenges of tomorrow. The most urgent is the enhancement of productivity per unit of land and water as well as achieving a quantum jump in quality improvement. Quality has to be judged by culinary, organoleptic, nutritional and processing characteristics. Our agriculture which was Christened as a gamble in the monsoon is fast becoming a gamble in the market. I believe that the outcome of research in these areas if undertaken by Shivaji University could provide solution to the problems that Maharashtra is facing for the livelihood of farmers. The role of private sector is important in bringing about a shift from unskilled to skilled work. We should pay special attention to the technological and skill empowerment of women, set up centres with the help of agricultural universities for agro industrial complexes linking production processing and marketing in the form of integrated system. set up computer aided marketing information system and offer management support. This, in the words of our former President Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.

"Invisible leadership is exercising the vision to change the traditional role from the commander to the coach, manager to mentor, director to delegator and from one who demands respect to one who facilitates self respect."

The nation needs young leaders who can command the change for transformation of India into a developed nation embedded with knowledge society. Young scientists, artists, engineers, architects arts. graduates, legal luminaries, teachers are all creators of vision and mission. You must remember, change is the progress and hence change is challenge. I am sure you all take up the challenge of transforming the rural India into a wealthy, happy and empowered area and you are the invisible leaders. As our state of Maharashtra on May 1st 2009 enters into its golden jubilee year of existence, the endeavours

of Shivaji University would be a befitting contribution to efforts of Government in establishing agri - clinics and agri-business centres and helping our state to become the first -ever green revolution state of our country through your leadership. Your efforts would ensure prosperity and security to the rural sector. We must always remember that it is not the distance that we have travelled which is important but it is the direction in which we are going is more important. We have to make sure that we catch the train in the right direction. The students must take up a branch for their studies in which they are interested. There are five steps described.

- 1) Identify what is it that you, enjoy doing and know that you do it well.
- 2) Concentrate and do it the best that you can.
- 3) Look very objectively at what you have just done and ask yourself is it really good ?
- 4) If the answer is yes go ahead and keep going.
- 5) Some one will step forward and pay for what you are doing.

Actually, our youngsters do exactly opposite. They start choosing a job that pays them well Then they find that they do not enjoy it, they work diligently but fail and leave the job and get frustrated. Don't let this happen to you.

Today is a golden day in your life You have achieved success by dint of hard work. You have achieved excellence, you have the knowledge and conviction, now it is for you to attain wisdom and courage into unexplained path, courage to discover the impossible, courage to combat problems and succeed.

I am sure with your courage and conviction, devotion and dedication, pragmatism and perseverance, you will make a mark.

Dear Students, your university has taught you innovation and change. All I would like to advise is remember to use the 'I' for innovating and not for imitating.

म्हणूनच आ नो भद्राः क्रतवे यन्तु विश्वतः

तुमचे विचार आचार उच्चार उत्तम असतील. कविवर्य कुसुमाग्रजांच्या शब्दात

“नाविक आम्ही परंतु फिरतो सात नभाखाली

निर्मितो नव क्षितिजे पुढती, चला उभारा

शुभ्र शिडे ती गर्वने वरती आणि कथा या

खुळ्या सागराला अनंत अमुची ध्येयासक्ती

अनंत अन् आशा, किनारा तुला पामराला.”

तुमचा उत्साह असाच खळखळत राहू दे, तुमच्या पंखात गरूडभरारीचे बळ येऊ दे, पण तुमचे पाय

मात्र याच मातीत घट्ट रोवून असू देत.

हीच जगन्नियंत्याशी प्रार्थना. यशस्वी व्हा आणि आत्मबलाच्या विश्वासाने बांधा मंदिर

मानवतेचे, मैत्रीचे अन् सहाकार्याने चित्रच बदला या जगताचे, नकोत स्पर्धा नकोच हेवा, कंकण

बांधा विश्वासाचे, प्रेम यत्न अन् आपुलकीने ऋण फेडा वसुंधरेचे.

तुमचे यश निर्विवाद, माझे आपण सर्वांना आशीर्वाद.

