

17TH ANNUAL CONVOCATION

8th FEBRUARY, 2022, TUESDAY

Convocation Address



Shri Kiran L. Patel

Joint Managing Director,

ASPEE Agricultural Research Foundation, Mumbai



NAVSARI AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

CENTRAL EXAMINATION HALL

NAU CAMPUS

NAVSARI AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

Navsari-396 450 (Gujarat)

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Honourable Governor of Gujarat and the Chancellor, Navsari Agricultural University **Shri Acharya Devvrat ji**; Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, **Shri Raghavjibhai Patel**, Vice-Chancellor of this University **Dr. Z. P. Patel**; Registrar **Dr. H.V. Pandya**; Vice-Chancellors of other Agricultural Universities; Members of the Board of Management and Academic Council; Officers, Teachers, Students and Staff members; Representatives of press and media; Ladies and Gentlemen.

With great honour and pride, I address this gathering at this convocation of the vibrant Gujarat University, which has risen to name and fame in no time.

Swami Vivekanand says to today's youth '**Arise! Awake! And stop not till the goal is reached.**' These words have inspired many youths and they should also inspire you to achieve success in life as you are now stepping into building your carrier.

It is my pleasure to be a part of one of the most memorable days of your life. My heartiest congratulations to all the graduating students, gold medalists and awardees who have received their degrees and awards on this auspicious occasion.

I appreciate the dedication and the sincere efforts of the faculty members of the university in educating, guiding and mentoring the students on their path to acquire knowledge and skill needed to rise to the challenges of transforming

agriculture. I am confident that the knowledge that you have acquired from this university will help you build your career and face the challenges of life.

Today as you leave, your biggest takeaway will not be your marks or your degree. It will be the experiences you had, the relationships you have built and more than anything else, the things you learnt about yourself. I am confident that you will positively impact millions of lives over the course of your careers. I have full faith and confidence in your talent, your determination and the quality of the education you have received from this esteemed institute.

As you embark on this amazing journey through life, keep yourself on the path of continuous growth, keep working, keep learning and keep dreaming. Your graduation is not the end of your learning, but rather the start of a lifelong journey of continuous learning outside the classroom.

In all of this, I urge you to direct your skills and training towards solving the problems of the farming community and empowering them. The nation is looking up to you for agri-innovation that is practically useful and commercially viable for the betterment of farmers.

I am glad that under the able leadership of your vice chancellor Dr. Zinabhai Patel the University is rapidly diversifying to meet the growing demand of the day and introducing many small courses to benefit farmers and new entrants in agriculture.

We at Aspee foundation are proud of our more than 25 years of association with this university and have been closely witnessing the growth and development of this university. It is the most happening place for students and farmers.

For the overall development of agriculture, ASPEE Foundation and Navsari Campus of the Gujarat Agricultural University, came together with the establishment of first of its kind ASPEE College of Horticulture & Forestry. Over time this bond strengthened, leading to the establishment of ASPEE Agribusiness Management Institute at Navsari and ASPEE SHAKILAM Biotechnology Institute, at Surat under Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari.

We are further keen to go miles with NAU, Navsari for the overall development of agriculture and society with stronger collaboration and multidimensional approaches.

I firmly believe in two Mantras which I like to give you to achieve success.

- 1) **“People are not useless, but they are used less.”**
God has given everything to us it all depends how best we use what we have. So better use yourself to your fullest potential and with full dedication to be successful in life.
- 2) And the second Mantra is **“Crazy people make history and wise read history”**. So be as crazy as possible to achieve what you want to achieve in life. Tab tak lage raho munnabhai.
 - If one 28 year old Prasad Save, a college dropout, from Vangaon Maharashtra can grow 15/18 tons of capsicum per day, Why can't you? His last 3 years turnover is between Rs. 3 to 4 Crores. He has taken 80 acres of land on lease to grow Capsicum and has his own 40 Acres of land in which he is growing Chikoo. Thus he has 120 acres of land under cultivation. He has Toyota

Fortuner, Tata Nexo cars, one Mahindra Bolero and two motor bikes. He is employing 250 laborers. Just imagine if such a college dropout with limited means can make handsome income why you as an agriculture graduate cannot do wonders? If anyone wants to visit him can meet me after this function I can share his phone number and address. So your focus, with your determination and sincere dedication nothing is impossible for you in life. Prasad also gives free consultations to his adjoining farmers. He was the recipient of ASPEE L. M. Patel Farmer of the Year Award.

- Our another awardee, Mr. Vimal Chawda, has done his graduation in Agriculture from Pantnagar University, in Uttarakhand in 1993 and joined his father in his farm is worth more than 300 Crores today. Even in the face of adversity he continued with vegetable cultivation on a large scale in Raipur district of Chhattisgarh. Today, he is MD of VNR Seeds Private Limited. He has employed more than 500 people and has his presence in entire India today.
- Our another awardee Mrs. Namrata Ghai Premji, 54 yrs. old post graduate in Chemistry is a real entrepreneur, she cultivates mushrooms in 10,000 sq.ft of built-up space in Raipur, Chattisgarh. Initially no one knew how to eat mushroom so she made a food outlet in Raipur & promoted mushrooms. She made various dishes of vegetables, papad, pickles to popularize

mushroom and got success. Now after the success of this she started preparing mushroom seedlings scientifically and supplies to other growers. During Covid lockdown, she took online classes, showed people how to grow, process and market mushrooms. She is recipient of many awards in mushroom growing, recently her videos were shown on doordarshan channels, and she has even appeared in *Kaun Banega Karodpati* & won 25 lakhs. Her per day production is between 250 to 350 kgs of mushrooms. This is her story of success of becoming a millionaire.

- Like these I can give hundreds of examples of successful young farmers who have not only achieved success but have also attracted many youngsters to enter agriculture.
- Gone are the days when people used to look at agriculture as a poor man's job. But now, agriculture has become one of the most rewarding occupations. And is attracting people from all walks of life, even something as lucrative as IT.
- You are lucky to have educated in the field of agriculture and you have ample scope as a an agriculture graduate and have scope in various fields like:
 - Joining universities as professor, research assistant,
 - Work in many commercial farms

- Joining Banking sectors,
- Food industries,
- Govt. Agriculture depts.
- Research Centres
- NABARD
- Work as scientists
- Microfinance institutes
- Pesticides, fertilizer, seeds, micronutrient companies
- And above all you can take up farming like the farmers I mentioned.

The ultimate winning edge will be your dedication, passion and commitment for the work you are doing. This will be possible when you will do what you love.

If you want to become a good entrepreneur, you need to understand the challenges that our society faces today. And in the midst of these challenges you will find the opportunities that you seek.

Visionaries think far ahead of their time and seem crazy to those who disbelieve them. And most brilliant ideas face upright rejection. But, remember new initiatives are taken only by an individual.

One must not allow conviction to become persistence. The world is constantly changing and when the facts change, we must reconsider our views.

I am thankful to the architectures of our new education policy which has many new components to develop the good human being for the society.

The multidimensional approach of the New Education Policy-2020 focuses on the interests of learners at various developmental stages. The policy will make all the higher education institutions multidisciplinary by 2040. The policy aims to transform the graduated from job seeker to job provider. It will help in recognizing, identifying and fostering the unique capabilities of each student, which in turn help teachers as well as parents to promote each student's holistic development in both academic and non-academic spheres.

The policy emphasises concept based learning against learning-for-exam. It will focus on creativity and critical thinking to encourage logical decision-making and innovation.

I am happy that this NAU, Navsari, understands the significance of the environment of university education in the development of critical thinking to encourage logical decision-making and innovation among the students.

The Faculty members and other staff members needs to be congratulated for imparting knowledge and mentoring the students. The future of our country depends on the quality of education that is being provided by you to our youth. You should feel proud to have prepared students for tomorrow.

One of the most important developments of this time is the emergence of new fields such as artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, remote sensing, etc. I am proud to report that NAU, Navsari is working to fulfil their promise. I feel satisfaction to learn that with the support of the authorities, faculty members of the university have initiated work on many of the advance and new of fields of science.

Dear students, now it is your turn to take agriculture to new heights. You need to play a critical role in the development of a rapidly developing India so that all can have happy and prosperous life.

Once again, I congratulate and bless the students passing out today and expect that the knowledge acquired in the University will act as a path finder in the competitive and challenging world for the progress and prosperity of the nation. Once again greetings and thanks to one and all present here.

My heartfelt thanks to the authorities of this esteemed University for inviting me to the convention function.

Now the doors of opportunities are open so don't believe in: Sky is the limit but strongly believe that the limit is beyond the sky.

JAI HIND



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