

33rd CONVOCATION OF MPKV, RAHURI
VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT
Dr. K. P. Viswanatha

Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra and Respected Chancellor of the University who is presiding over this 33rd Convocation of MPKV, Rahuri **Shri. Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Raoji.**

Distinguished Chief Guest **Shri. Nitinji Gadkari**, Hon'ble Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation in the Government of India who will deliver convocation address today.

Shri. Chandrakantji Patil, Hon'ble Minister of Revenue, Relief, and Rehabilitation, Public Works (excluding Public Undertakings), Agriculture and Horticulture, Government of Maharashtra and Pro-Chancellor of MPKV, Rahuri and the guest of honor.

Shri. Ramji Shinde, Hon'ble Minister of Water Conservation and Protocol, Government of Maharashtra and Guardian Minister of Ahmednagar District and the guest of honor.

Shri. Sadabhauji Khot, Hon'ble Minister of state for Agriculture, Horticulture and Marketing and the guest of honor.

Hon'ble Members of Executive Council, Members of Academic Council; Present and former Vice Chancellors of the Agril. Universities of

Maharashtra, learned faculty, teaching and nonteaching staff members of the University; progressive farmers; students; graduates taking degrees today, proud parents; representatives of the press and media, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my proud privilege to extend a very warm welcome to all of you on this auspicious occasion of 33rd Convocation of MPKV, Rahuri - a pioneer Agriculture University of Maharashtra, established in 1968 as the Maharashtra Agricultural University, which was renamed as the Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth in 1969 after the Great Social Reformer of the country “Mahatma Jyotiba Phule” and celebrating Golden Jubilee Year during 2018-19.

I deem it as a proud privilege and great honor to extend a hearty and cordial welcome to our Chancellor, distinguished Chief Guest, Pro-Chancellor and the Guests of honor for the 33rd convocation of this University

Shri. Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao, Hon’ble Governor of Maharashtra brings with him a vast and varied experience in public life. Hailing from Telangana, he is Science Graduate and secured LLB from the Law College of Osmania University where he was also elected as President of the Students’ Union. Shri. Rao started law practice in Karimnagar in the year 1973. He was actively associated with the Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP). He was elected to the 12th and 13th Lok Sabha elections from Karimnagar Constituency. Shri. Rao has served as Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and subsequently as Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry from

1999–2004 in Shri. Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s Government. During his illustrious Parliamentary career, he served as Member of the Committees on Public Accounts, Business Advisory Committee and Finance. He was also a Member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Before becoming MP, he was elected thrice to the Legislative Assembly of undivided Andhra Pradesh in 1985, 1989 and 1994 from Metpalli Assembly Constituency in Karimnagar district. His Padyatra to Ichampalli in the year 1998 highlighting the need to utilize Godavari waters for the needs of people of Telangana led the Government to consider the project seriously. He was the Floor leader for three consecutive terms in the A.P. Legislative Assembly.

On behalf of members of Executive council, Academic council, staff and students of MPKV, I heartily welcome you sir.

I am extremely happy to welcome our Chief Guest **Shri. Nitinji Gadkari**, Hon’ble Union Minister Road Transport and Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation in the Government of India. He is known as the flyovers man because of his work in constructing roads, expressways and flyovers. He has worked hard in politics to get to the position he is today.

Born in the city of Nagpur on 27th May 1957, Shri. Nitinji Gadkari completed M. Com and LLB in Maharashtra and has also obtained Diploma in Business Management. His mother had great influence

on him and she inculcated in him the spirit of social work.

Shri. Nitinji Gadkari joined politics at a very young age. He was a student activist and took part in politics actively. He joined the student political outfit Akhil Bharatiya Vidya Parishad (ABVP) in 1976. He actively participated in the university student elections. He was selected as President of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha when he was just 24 years old. When he became the secretary of the BJP Nagpur city, he worked to strengthen the organization in various areas of the district. He became the M.L.C from Nagpur city at the age of 32. He worked to spread the popularity of his party all over the state.

Shri. Gadkari has been a member of Maharashtra Legislative Council since 1989. He was also President of the Maharashtra Pradesh BJP till 2009 when he was elevated to the post of the BJP National President to become the youngest ever party president. He was a PWD Minister in Maharashtra between 1995 and 1999. At the age of 42, he became the leader of the Opposition in Maharashtra Legislative Council. Shri. Vajpayee Government appointed him the Chairman of National Rural Road Development Committee. His report was accepted and new rural road connecting scheme now popularly known as Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was launched.

Shri. Nitinji Gadkari is known amongst his colleagues as a successful entrepreneur and a progressive leader who believes in socioeconomic development as well as environment protection. His notable achievements include working for the

upliftment of farmers and providing them better living opportunities. Gadkariji is also the pioneer of the first bio-diesel pump in the country. Apart from this, he is the first one to facilitate solar fencing. Software Technology Park in central India is also his initiative. The sewage water for the Power Generation project is his endeavour towards an environmental friendly way of modern living.

Shri. Nitinji Gadkari is regarded for his work in building bridges, flyovers and expressways during his tenure in the Public Works Department. He is also known to have played a significant role in the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. He also transformed the Central PWD. Nagpur became a beautiful city due to his contribution to the infrastructure of the city.

We feel happy and proud to have such a renowned personality as chief guest for our convocation.

I welcome you Sir, on behalf of members of Executive Council, Academic Council, MPKV staff, students and all our graduates and on my personal behalf.

Shri. Chandrakantji Patil, Hon'ble Minister of Revenue, Relief, and Rehabilitation, Public Works, Agriculture and Horticulture, Government of Maharashtra and Pro-Chancellor of MPKV, Rahuri and the guest of honor born in 1959. He is also the Guardian Minister of Kolhapur and Jalgaon District.

He spent his childhood days in the Prabhudas chawl in Mumbai. He received his initial schooling

from the Raja Shivaji Vidyalaya (formerly known as King George High School), Dadar. He graduated from the Siddharth College (Fort) in 1985.

He was introduced to the Akhil Bharatiya Vidhyarthi Parishad (ABVP) at the age of 18. It was in 1980, that he started working as a full-time activist for the ABVP. Later in 1982, he was appointed as the 'Pradesh Mantri'. In 1985, Shri. Patil was elected as 'Kshetriya Sangathan Mantri' of the ABVP where he focused on the problems of the youth and student issues. During 1990, he was elected as the Akhil Bharatiya Mantri of ABVP. At this time, he travelled to different districts of India to make people aware of social issues and addressed problems related to the education sector and the youth. It was in 2004, that he joined the Bharatiya Janata Party and was elected as its Vice President in 2013. In June 2014, he was elected as a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council and later in October 2014, he was appointed as Cabinet Minister of Maharashtra. He has been holding the Cabinet Minister office since July 2016 and handling the charge of Agriculture and Horticulture in addition to revenue, relief & rehabilitation and Public Works department.

I welcome you Sir for this convocation on behalf of members of Executive Council, Academic Council, MPKV Staff, Students and all our graduates.

Another Guest of Honor, **Shri. Ramji Shinde**, Hon'ble Minister of Water Conservation and Protocol, Government of Maharashtra and Guardian Minister, Ahmednagar District. Having Masters Degree in

Botany and B.Ed degree, he was a Professor in Bhagwan Mahavidyalaya, Ashti, Beed District during 1994-95.

Prof. Ramji Shinde is a member of the 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. He represents the Karjat Jamkhed Assembly Constituency. He was appointed Maharashtra's Minister of State in December, 2014. He was given responsibility of the home portfolio as well as for Public Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Marketing and Tourism. During July, 2016 in cabinet expansion, he was promoted to cabinet rank and given charge of water conservation Ministry. **On behalf of Members of Executive Council, Academic Council, MPKV staff, students and graduates, I welcome you sir.**

Another Guest of Honor, **Shri. Sadabhauji Khot**, Hon'ble Minister of state for Agriculture and Horticulture and Marketing, born in 1964. He was elected as member of legislative council from Maharashtra during June 2016. During July he was inducted as a Minister of state in Maharashtra Government and given charge of Agriculture, Horticulture and Marketing.

On behalf of Members of Executive Council, Academic Council, MPKV staff, students and graduates, I welcome you sir.

I welcome all the present and Former Vice Chancellors, faculty, graduates and their parents for this convocation.

Friends, today I feel great honor to represent Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri which is

the leading Agricultural University in education, research and extension at state and national levels which was recognized by Sardar Patel outstanding ICAR Institution Award in 2002 and Institute of Excellence award in 2007-08 and pleased to present before you the salient accomplishments of this University.

EDUCATION

MPKV offers various educational programmes *viz.*, Bachelors degree programme in Agriculture, Horticulture, Agriculture Engineering, Food Technology, Agri Business Management, Biotechnology, Animal Husbandry, Diploma in Agriculture, and Agril. Polytechnics and Masters degree programme in 21 disciplines of Agriculture and 03 disciplines in Agriculture Engineering and Doctoral degree programme in 18 disciplines of Agriculture and 04 disciplines of Agriculture Engineering.

University has nine Under Graduate Constituent Agriculture and Allied Colleges with intake capacity of 844 students and 64 affiliated unaided Agriculture and Allied Colleges with intake capacity of 4730 students. Similarly, we have intake capacity of 372 for M.Sc. and 78 for Ph.D. programmes every year.

During the academic year 2017-18, 5 international students have been admitted in the University for Under and Post graduation.

University has developed National Linkages with Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd., Jalgaon, Mahindra and Mahindra Tractors, Mumbai, Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISS), Bhopal, Maharashtra State *Draksh*

Bagaitdar Sangh, Maharashtra Rajya Marathi Vishwakosh Nirmiti Mandal, National Research Center on Camel (Bikaner), Rajasthan, Bayer Crop Science Limited, and Prime Datamatics LLP (PRIME) for education.

Other activities like Republic day, Mahatma Phule Jayanti, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti, Maharashtra Din and International Labour day and Independence Day were celebrated. International Yoga Day was organized at Central Campus, MPKV, Rahuri where in Shri. Shridhar Dhas, a notable Yogacharya delivered lecture on health benefits of Yoga.

“Teachers day” was celebrated on 5th September, 2018 at Central Campus, MPKV, Rahuri. Prof. M. C. Varshney, Ex. Vice Chancellor, Kamdhenu University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat addressed the students and staff on this occasion.

University is implementing the under graduate syllabus as per the recommendations of the Vth Dean Committee of the ICAR, from the academic year 2017-18. An utmost effort has been made to improve and maintain high technology standards in education.

Upon the recommendations of the ICAR Peer Review Committee and Education Division for meeting the accreditation criteria, the National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board (NAEB) has granted accreditation to MPKV, Rahuri and its constituent colleges (College of Agriculture, Pune/Dhule/Kolhapur/Nandurbar, Dr.ASCAET/PGI, MPKV, Rahuri) for the period of five years. CET has been started from the academic year 2018-19 for admission to Under Graduate programme.

Students of this university have achieved good success at the national level exams. Five students have achieved success in SRF, 27 in JRF, 48 in NET and 6 in GATE exams during the year 2017-18.

During 2017-18, the students excelled in various sports competition like Inter Agricultural University Sports Meet (Agriunisport), Gold Medal for Kho-Kho team (Men), Kabaddi team (Men) while Kho-Kho and Kabaddi Women team secured Silver Medal. The University team obtained running trophy of overall winnership during the Maharashtra State Utkarsha Social and Cultural Event – 2017-18.

Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri hosted the 12th Maharashtra State Inter University Research Convention AVISHKAR 2017-18 during 15th to 17th January 2018 at Central Campus of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri. About 600 students, 200 Team Managers, Judges and Officials participated from 20 Universities of Maharashtra in this research convention. Hon'ble Padma Bhushan Shri. Vijay Bhatkar, Chancellor, Nalanda University inaugurated the function.

We have introduced a new concept of tree planting by involving all students with five tree plants by each students admitted to all degree programmes. They are advised to plant and protect those five plants during their entire tenure of 2, 3 or 4 years depending on their degree programme. All of our students have taken pledge to maintain our campus as a clean and green campus. “SWACHA BHARAT ABHIYAN” is adopted at various constituent and affiliated colleges under the jurisdiction of University with core objective

to keep **campus clean green and plastic free with healthy atmosphere.** Nevertheless, University students involved in Hon'ble Prime Minister's mission of Doubling the Farmers Income by 2022 through baseline survey of parents of agril. students and transfer of technology.

University has submitted proposals for establishment of Agriculture college in each district and also constituent allied colleges *viz.*, Agril. Biotechnology, Food Technology and Agri. Business Management in the jurisdiction of MPKV, Rahuri.

RESEARCH

For conducting the research on more than 70 crops, soil, climate, cropping system, livestock and other aspects of farming business, the university has a network of research stations spread in different agro climatic zones. In all, there are 27 research stations excluding Central Campus spread in 5 agro climatic zones. There are four Zonal Agricultural Research Stations located in 4 Agro Climatic Zones and 18 sub-Research Stations for verification of research work and to take up the research programmes. In addition to this, the State level Crop Specialists are placed for Oilseeds at Jalgaon, Sugarcane at Padegaon, Wheat at Niphad and Soil Scientists at Solapur. At present, MPKV have **82 non-plan schemes** funded by State Govt., **44 AICRPs** on different crops and plant sciences **and one centrally Sponsored Research Scheme.**

During this year, we have released five crop varieties one implement and 40 recommendations / technologies. The released varieties are *Phule Chetana* of Cotton, *Phule Vikrant* of Chickpea, *Phule Pride* of

Banana which is dwarf variety, *Phule Vijaya* of Papaya and *Phule Jayshree* of Cherry tomato.

The adoption of these varieties by the farmers made huge impact on their livelihood and enhanced their economical and social status.

In chickpea, MPKV has released 14 chickpea varieties which are resistant to Fusarium wilt and drought tolerant with a high yield potential. Hence, these varieties have highest indent for nucleus and breeder seed of MPKV varieties contributes 14.75 per cent at national level. In sorghum, MPKV, Rahuri has developed varieties on the basis of soil types (*viz.*, *Phule Anuradha* for shallow soil, *Phule Suchitra* for medium soil and *Phule Vasudha* for deep soil of rainfed condition while *Phule Revati* for protective irrigation). Twenty five per cent area of total *rabi* sorghum area in Maharashtra is under MPKV's varieties. The net gain of Rs. 260 crores per annum is noticed from MPKV *rabi* sorghum varieties. MPKV released onion *Phule Samarth* is highly popular in Maharashtra. Around 40 % area of *kharif* onion cultivation is under this particular variety.

Furthermore, I am glad to mention here that this University has prepared and submitted the action plan report for Doubling of Farmers Income by 2022 by prioritizing its research and extension activities on biotic and abiotic stress management, precision farming, processing and mechanical harvesting, bio-pesticides and fertilizers, nutritional and quality parameters. Also the university has revised the district wise crop contingency plan.

We have initiated the activities as per the policies of the State and Central Governments in mission mode. These include: Cleaning campaign coupled with Natural Resource Management for Soil Health and Water use efficiency, Watershed Development Programme on university campus with the inputs from Shri. Popatraoji Pawar, *Hiware Bazar* model, Biodiversity, Organic Farming, irrigation water management based on Automatic Weather Station with its IT applications. **Recently MPKV, Rahuri has received Minor millet Seed Hub Project and Centre for Excellence for nutri cereals.**

Govt. of Maharashtra sanctioned, “**Bamboo Start up Promotion Centre**” at MPKV, Rahuri. The project consisting two components, *viz.*, Research component for evaluation of bamboo species for better adaptability and carbon sequestration and Training component for *Bamboo* Handicrafts and Art Unit. Rs. 33.21 lakhs have been received for the development of training centers for the Bamboo Handicrafts and Art unit. Recently MOU has been signed between MPKV & Bamboo Research & Training Centre and on the eve of World Bamboo Day, Workshop on “Bamboo for Sustainable Development” was organized on 18th September, 2018 at College of Agriculture, Pune.

Every year the university is implementing massive Seed Production Programme. During the last year MPKV has implemented seed production of 40 thousand quintals of seed and 11.5 lakh nursery grafts/seedlings. Government of Maharashtra has sanctioned RKVY project “Establishment of lift

irrigation for sustainable seed production at the University Campus” for sustainable seed production.

EXTENSION EDUCATION

The Govt. of India is emphasizing on Doubling Farmers Income by 2022. For achieving such targets, the role of extension services especially for technology transfer is most crucial for the farmers to realize the gains from improved technological innovations. The extension mechanism also provides an opportunity for the researchers to assess and refine the technologies.

The university has implemented various programmes *viz.*, Technology week at KVKs, training programmes (424), *Pradhanmantri Fasal Bima Yojana*, *Krishi Jagruti Saptaha*, *Jai Kisan Jai Vigyan Week* through our different extension functionaries. These events were participated by various dignitaries of state and national level.

A massive tree plantation programme *Vanmohotsav -2018* and *Krishidin* was organized on July 02, 2018 at MPKV, Rahuri. On this occasion saplings of different species were planted in the College of Agriculture, Pune, Dhule, Nandurbar, Muktainagar and Kolhapur; and all affiliated Colleges and Agricultural Technical Schools along with the Agricultural Research Stations and Central Campus, Rahuri.

We are implementing Farmer FIRST of RKVY and ICAR in all the 10 districts of MPKV jurisdiction and supporting more than 6,000 farmers directly and 60,000 farmers indirectly.

Sir, for showcasing of our university technologies a mega event of *Kisan Aadhar Sammelan-2018* under the theme Doubling the Farmers Income was organized at the Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri during October 15-18, 2018 in collaboration with Department of Agriculture and Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA). The event comprised of Live Crop Demonstrations, Agriculture Exhibition and Farmers-Scientists Interactions. This event comprised of Live Crop Demonstrations on 100 acre of 45 different crops and 131 varieties, an Agriculture Exhibition and Farmers-Scientists Interactions. In all large number of farmers and other stakeholders visited this *Kisan Aadhar Sammelan*.

On the same line, the Agro Technology Fest was organized at College of Agriculture, Pune, Dhule, ARS, Igatpuri etc.

Thus, the University is making concentrated efforts for the upliftment of farming community.

Dear Students, education is life time process. Graduation is not the end but a milestone in your journey of learning. You have to keep learning in order to remain upto date in knowledge in the modern society. I may inform you that higher education has a beginning but not the end. A new chapter is now to begin in your life.

Please remember that the opportunities are awaiting you. It is for you to make serious efforts. I want you to dream and make all out efforts to make your dreams a reality. But also keep a space for yourself as a person. Think about what you are, what

you want to be, what your personal objectives are and what interests you.

I wish you all the best and I pray to god for success in shaping your future career. Remember that whatever you do and wherever you are-you shall always be an Indian and more so an alumnus of this university.

You would now be spread in many directions. One thing shall be common and be always with you-that is the sense of responsibility this institution has planted in you. After decades of your working career, you would still remember the period you have spent in this great university and you may look back at these golden years as the ones most important in your life.

I once again welcome you all.

!! Jai Hind !!

!! Jai Maharashtra!!