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**VNSGU**  
VEER NARMAD  
SOUTH GUJARAT  
UNIVERSITY, SURAT

TH  
**SPECIAL CONVOCATION**  
August 22, 2019



## Convocation Address

by

**Honorable Vice Chancellor**  
**Dr. Shivendra Gupta**

The Chief Guest of the 50<sup>th</sup> Special Convocation Ceremony in his absentia, the Deans of various faculties, members of the Senate and Syndicate, members of the Academic Council, Principals, Directors, Heads, Administrative Officers, Teachers, Staff, Students, Reporters, Citizens and Dear Graduates, I extend a very cordial welcome to you all. I take this opportunity to respectfully pay my sincere tribute to the great Gujarati poet Shri Veer Narmad on his birth anniversary which on 24th August.

On the occasion of 50<sup>th</sup> Special Convocation, I am pleased to address this august gathering. In the first place, I congratulate all the graduating students for the sheer hardwork they have put in earning their degrees. I wish them a very bright future ahead. Graduates, each one of you is here today through your sustained hard work. You had all the courage to face the challenges of university learning. You had to develop certain qualities of character and mind to achieve this. These qualities include empathy, rigour, the capacity to think independently, to listen politely, and, when necessary, to disagree, without being disagreeable and disrespectful. With these qualities, you are empowered to seek out new opportunities with the confidence that you can contribute, with the knowledge that you are ready to face the challenges, that you can overcome challenges and unexpected setbacks. That's the power of aeducation at Veer Narmad South Gujarat University.

I agree with Benjamin Franklin's proclamation that 'investment in knowledge pays the best interest.' This is the reason why the powerful economies invest the highest amount of their GDP in education. They acquired power by creating and nurturing new knowledge, that is to say, investing in education. If we

look back in the history of the mankind, we find that the cultures which had invested in knowledge were the most prosperous cultures in every aspect of life i.e. social, economic, political, cultural, and spiritual. India is the most prominent example of this, when we think of investment in knowledge and thereby generating profoundly useful systems of knowledge. As a matter of fact, we had the best minds who created best of the knowledge in the forms of Ved and Puran and other knowledge based texts. We were the world leaders then and we are the world leaders now in terms of the enormously rich cultural heritage and knowledge texts. I strongly feel that the great minds from every culture borrowed from our rich reservoirs of knowledge. Most of the advancements in the prowess of science and technology are based on the principles contemplated in the Indian knowledge systems. True, we were colonized, we were subjugated, we were robbed both economically and culturally. But let's leave this past behind and focus on the future which ours. And the news for all of us is that New India is rising again.

It pleases my heart that we are all set to implement new education policy after about four years in the making, the draft of the National Education Policy 2019 is out in the public domain, with comments sought from all stakeholders. Drawing inputs from the T.S.R. Subramanian Committee report and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), the K. Kasturirangan Committee has produced a document that is comprehensive, far-sighted and grounded in realities. The draft policy seeks to revamp all aspects of the sector and does not shy away from suggesting brave new ideas.

In order to keep pace with the changing landscape of higher education, the University strives to bring about necessary changes in teaching, research and administration for both sustenance and enhancement of the quality. For instance, we organized a historical two-day workshop 'New Syllabus for New India' for 360<sup>0</sup> change in the syllabi. The workshop was aimed at total reformation of the existing syllabus to suit our current needs and to contextualize the syllabus to our rich cultural heritage. C.S. Lewis brings out the irony of today's education when he states "Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make a man a cleverer devil." Our educational system fails to instil into young Indians a dynamic awareness and understanding of their country's rich cultural heritage. Macaulay would have been delighted to see how faithfully and mindlessly we have followed his dictums until now. We will have to bid a farewell to Macaulay Model of Education. We will have to devise our own model of education which is *Indian in colour and Indian in Taste*. The very aim of the workshop was to calibrate our present syllabi to fit in our social, geo-political and most importantly our cultural contexts of being an Indian. In reality, to integrate Indian culture and heritage in the curriculum would do students a great service: it would equip them with a more concrete knowledge of their country which can help them in any professional life; it would give them a sense of belonging to a stream of civilization instead of being meaningless individuals drifting in space and time.

I am really happy to place on record that we are one of the first universitiesto organize such an action-based workshop where eminent stalwarts from various fields representing institutes of national and international

repute remained present for both the days. What is more pleasing is the fact that I personally apprised Hon. Acharya DevVratji, Hon. Governor of Gujarat about the workshop and he was really pleased with our effort and he very heartily congratulated the university for taking such a stride forward. I assure all of you that the final draft of the new syllabi will be ready by October 2, 2019 – Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti. The university plans to change the entire syllabi of both UG and PG and implement it in the academic year 2020-2021.

Veer Narmad South Gujarat University caters to the educational needs of the students of Surat, Navsari, Valsad, Bharuch, Narmada, Dang, Daman and Dadra-nagarHaveli, belonging predominantly to tribal and rural areas where most of the students are the first-generation learners. The University has concentrated on the holistic development of the students of our region to make them wholesome and healthy citizens of the country by providing them with quality higher education and the best infrastructural facilities.

In the last two years our university has achieved many milestones. A few of them are as under:

- Approval and introduction of PG programmes in Architecture and Management faculty, New Diploma Programmes in the Department of Rural Studies, New certificate/ foundation courses in the Department of MHRD, Fellowships programmes under Medical Faculty and Certificate and Diploma Programmes under Science Faculty.
- Increased intake capacity (Seat) of B.Arch. programme from 20 to 80 from Academic Year

2019-20 which has given a massive boost to the department.

- Preparatory Training course for UPSC/GPSC Preliminary/ Main examination by the M. K. Kadakia IAS/IPS and Competitive Examination Training Centre
- Approval to about 14 colleges to run UG and PG level programmes.
- Conducted Ph.D. Entrance Exam and declared result in record breaking time of within 24 hours.
- Innovative approaches adopted by the university in Teaching and Learning
- Budgetary provision of Rs. 1 Cr for promotion of research
- Regular workshops and training programs of “Research Methodology” conducted by the Department of HRD on Data Analysis, use of software package like SPSS, E-views, R & Research methodology and FDPs.
- The faculty of the University has published numerous research papers in reputed national and international journals.
- The university has been receiving research grants worth crores from reputed funding agencies like ICSSR, Gujcost, UGC, GSECL, NTPC among others.
- The university has received many research awards/recognitions for the contribution in research.
- Grants under RUSA : 18 Cr. for Infrastructure/Equipments/Books
- New Construction

<b>Sr No</b>	<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Cost Appx.</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1	State of Art Boys Hostel	3 Cr.	About to be completed
2	Huminities Building	1.95 Cr.	Completed
3	Extension of Bioscience Building	1.30 Cr.	Completed
4	Indoor Swimming Pool with Multipurpose Hall	3.99 Cr.	Completed
5	Synthetic Athletic Track, Hockey and Football Ground	7.90 Cr.	Completed

- Grant Approved by State Government for new project

<b>Sr No</b>	<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1	Central Library	5.37 Cr.
2	Guest House	1.55 Cr.
3	Compound Wall	2.20 Cr.
4	Underground Water Tank	65 Lacs
5	Overhead Water Tank	1.05 Cr.

The university has enormous sports achievements to its credit. The university has produced athletes who have gained recognition at national and international

- Our University Cricket Team became champion in All India Inter University Cricket Competition.

- Our University Badminton Women team became, West Zone Runner-up team and All India Inter University also Runner-up team in All India Inter University Badminton Competition.
- Kum. Sarita Gayakwad of Arts & Commerce College, Chikhli represented India in Athletics and Got Medal in Asian Athletic Competition Gold Medal.
- Mr. Raj Bhanvadia represented India in Swimming Competition and won a medal in 4 x 100 mts. South Asian Swimming Competition. And the list is endless.
- At present we are the only University in Gujarat who have Inter National facility
  - 400mts. Synthetics Track and
  - Astrotruf Hockey Ground.
  - Swimming Pool.
- Introduction of 'e-Daxinayan' University newsletters since May 2018.
- Active role of Baba Saheb Ambedkar Chair by organizing various activities/seminars.
- Active role of Startup Cell by organizing various activities/seminars.
- Active role of Psychological Counseling Cell by organizing various activities/seminars.

And now dear Graduates, in these last few minutes, let us take a quiet moment to reflect. I invite you to ask yourself, what is my core purpose in life? Now, try to look ahead to 20 years from now. Ask yourself two questions;

"When my story is written, what would I like people to say?"



"What will be my contribution to my family, to my community, to my profession and to my country?"

Graduates, we have endeavoured to bring you on a journey of experiences which help you to grow and transform. The whole University celebrates with you. We are proud of your achievements. But there is much more to do, and today marks a new beginning as the New India is waiting for you with open arms. In conclusion, I call each of you to action, to go out from here, with confidence, with our blessings and best wishes, and work actively towards living a good and generous life.

I would quote Swami Vivekanand at the end, "Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached." I also quote a well known Hindi poet Shri Ramdharisinh 'Dinkar' to boost the moral courage of our students,

"द्वंद कहां तक पाला जाए,  
युद्ध कहां तक टाला जाए।  
तू भी है राणा का वंशज,  
फैंक जहां तक भाला जाए।  
दोनों ओर लिखा हो भारत,  
सिक्का वही उछाला जाए।"

Jay Hind, Jay Jay Garvi Gujarat.



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