



Chief Guest of today's Convocation Hon'ble Vice President of India Sri M. Venkaiah Naidu Ji, Vice Chancellor of Vikrama Simhapuri University Prof. R. Sudarsana Rao, Members of the Executive Council and Deans of Faculties, research Scholars, Supporting Staff, Ladies and Gentlemen, Young Graduates and Media persons. My warm Greetings to you all on this eventful occasion.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate all the students receiving their degrees today on this momentous occasion.

I feel that it is a memorable event and moment of pride for you as much as it is to your teachers, parents and to all your well-wishers who have contributed in shaping your life so far.

I congratulate all the dedicated faculty who have shared their valuable knowledge and shaped your career.

I am confident that all the students who are graduating today will find a good career and will make a mark in their life. I advise you to maintain good character all through your life.

Human resource development is essential for accelerating economic growth and development of a country. The development of human capital depends upon quality and inclusive education.

In recent years, higher education recorded significant expansion in India with All India Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) being 25.8 for the year 2017-18. There are about 810 Universities and Deemed to be Universities and 40,000 Colleges imparting higher education.

India is one of world's fastest growing knowledge-based economies due to its huge human capital. The existing low skill levels are posing a challenge to our country's growth and global competitiveness.

At the moment about 1.2 crore youth need to be skilled by 2025, another 250 million youth are estimated to enter the Indian workforce. There is tremendous potential for employable youth to enter the workforce if the right steps are followed. The current training capacity is grossly inadequate to respond to the country's needs.

However, I am happy to learn that according to India Skills Report 2019, Andhra Pradesh has topped the list of states with the highest employability in India.

After Globalization you are exposed to innumerable opportunities. For example you can compete for a job in Singapore or Sydney or for that matter in any place in the world provided you have the required skills and training. Therefore, the graduates and post-graduates passing out of the university have to enhance their knowledge base with required communications and soft skills to become successful in their career.

Envisioning this kind of phenomenon especially in the context of Demographic Dividend, Government of India launched a flagship programme Pradhana Mantri Koushal Vikas Yojana with an objective of skill development and make the students job-ready. Andhra Pradesh also launched such skill development programmes with the assistance of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship with a vision of a "Skilled India".

I appreciate Vikrama Simhapuri University for its initiatives in forging industry-institution linkage by organizing University-Industry workshop every year.

I advise all the people, especially the young graduates to do your bit to safeguard the environment by actively participating in tree plantation by planting at least five saplings in a year, be it your birthday or any festive occasion. I am happy to know that the staff and students have recently undertaken plantation of 64,800 saplings. My request to the university authorities is to ensure that the saplings survive and grow well.

As Gautama Buddha said:

*"What you think, you become. What you feel, you attract. What you imagine, you create."*

My advise to the young graduates is, you do hard work and try to achieve the goal you set for. At least some of you can become entrepreneurs, so that you can provide employment to others instead of seeking employment yourself.

As per the ancient wisdom:

*"Knowledge brings humility, from humility comes worthiness, with worthiness one attains wealth, with wealth one is able to perform his duties in a better way, and in performing his duties one attains happiness."*

Therefore, my advise to all the young graduates here is to be humble in life and prove yourself worthy of the wisdom and knowledge you acquired from this University.

As our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said a few days ago, our country should become a US \$ 5 trillion economy by 2024. Let us join our hands together to achieve the challenge set by the Prime Minister.

Before concluding, I would like to draw your attention to the quotation of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who said:

*"A life of joy and happiness is possible only on the basis of knowledge and science."*

I once again congratulate you and wish you all success in your future endeavors.

JAI HIND