

## PRESS REPORT

Mumbai

March 7, 2018

The 67<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of SNDTWU was held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at the Sir Sitaram and Lady Shantabai Patkar Deekshant Sabhagriha. Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women's University founded in 1916 by the social reformer Bharat Ratna Maharshi Dhondo Keshav Karve.

In this convocation 13815 Degrees, Diplomas and certificates for successful completion of undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral as well as diploma/certificate programmes were awarded. A total of 52 PhD degrees were also conferred in 16 subjects during this convocation. During this convocation the Degrees of PhD in Women's Studies and faculty of Communication and media studies were given for the first time.

**Prof. Shashikala Wanjari, Vice Chancellor** of the University presided over the function. **Prof Vishnu Magare, Pro Vice Chancellor** SNDTWU presented the convocation report and introduced the chief guest of the function **Dr. Vijayalakshmi Deshmane** renowned oncologist who retired as Professor and Head of Kidwai Institute of Oncology, Bengaluru. Prof. Deshmane is known for her contribution in the field of breast cancer research and practice.

In her message to the students, Honourable madam Vice Chancellor, Prof. Shashikala Wanjari remarked that the university through decades has kept up the vision of Bharat Ratna Maharshi Karve where countless women have met their educational aspirations and have contributed significantly to the development of society and nation.

In her convocation address Dr. Deshmane shared her experiences of being in Mumbai and her work in surgical oncology. She expressed that Dr. P V Desai and others contributed to her professional work. Listing the names of women leaders from diverse fields, she wished everyone international women's day in advance. She said when people say two women cannot work together than how come so many women in this esteemed university are working together. She propagated healthy lifestyles through thinking and eating and the need to have better associations. She said that Poverty is a disease and society has helped her. Sharing her experiences of being born in the slums of Gulburga, daughter of street vendor mother, her mother gave away her mangalsutra for her MBBS admission. Being in a family of seven sisters with five of them PhDs and one entrepreneur, she shared her fight after a heart attack in 2016. She declared that she would donate in the memory of her mother Rs. 25000 to the University. She advised the students to remain calm, use energy and time, live in the present and get away from slavery of mobile and television. She concluded with Swami Vivekananda's message of "Arise, Awake and stop not till the goal is achieved".

Dr. Subash Waghmare, Director, Board of Examinations and Evaluation, SNDTWU presented the various prize winners to be conferred with the degrees and diplomas at the hands of the honourable Vice Chancellor of SNDTW and proposed the vote of thanks. The programme concluded with the honourable Vice Chancellor declaring the convocation ceremony closed.