



# CONVOCATION

# Savitribai Phule Pune University

Pune, Maharashtra

03 July, 2024

**Namaskar,**

**Warm greetings to:**

- Honorable Governor of Maharashtra & Chancellor Shri Ramesh Bias
- Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof.(Dr.) Suresh Gosavi
- Hon'ble Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dr. Parag Kalkar
- Esteemed deans and faculty members
- Parents and dear students.

I am overwhelmed with happiness as I stand before such distinguished personalities and young talent at the prestigious Savitribai Phule Pune University, where many Indian visionary leaders have marked their presence and delivered convocation addresses to the graduating students.

I am deeply honored to be here today as the Chief Guest of this convocation and delighted to share my thoughts with the new graduates. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the graduates who are now poised to begin

their professional journeys. Your dedication and hard work have brought you to this momentous occasion, making your parents, teachers, and the entire University immensely proud.

Convocation is not just a celebration for the students; it is also a joyous occasion for their parents and teachers. These individuals have invested significant time and effort in preparing you, imparting valuable skills, and ensuring you are ready for the professional world. Your parents and faculty members truly deserve heartfelt appreciation for their unwavering support and guidance throughout your academic journey.

Furthermore, being a graduate of Savitribai Phule Pune University is a significant achievement and a source of immense pride. Your academic journey at this esteemed institution is a testament to your comprehensive learning, experiences, and educational prowess. As you may know, Savitribai Phule Pune University is renowned as the 'Oxford of the East.' Just imagine the level of respect and admiration this university commands, where you

have dedicated 3-4 years to studying and acquiring top-tier knowledge. Feel proud to be graduates of this esteemed University, which will open numerous opportunities for you in your future endeavors.

Friends, as you step up in the next and most efficient chapter of your life, please remember to continue skilling and upskilling yourself to sustain in an emerging and advanced world. Today, we have a lot of new technologies that are actually taking up a major space in the human world. We have no idea how these technologies are making us dependent on them, due to which we are lacking in skilling ourselves.

Indeed, it is important and necessary to adapt to new and advanced technologies, but we should be totally dependent on them. It is always better to adapt them with your own skillset to be relevant for the job

industry. For example, use of ChatGpt can make you grab eyeballs of many in terms of writing or preparing some projects, but what about your language skills then. Definitely you can prepare your writing stuff with chatgpt but when you have to speak your heart, you need a good skill set and vocabulary. Therefore, it is better to take help from these new technologies to ease your task, make it more relevant and efficient but never use it as the only option for your work.

Friends, in today's rapidly evolving world, the integration of AI and other advanced technologies has become pervasive, impacting various aspects of life, including education, employment, and daily routines. Consequently, it is imperative for our youth to adapt to these technological advancements with intelligence and agility.





Firstly, the workforce landscape is shifting dramatically. Automation and AI are transforming industries, creating new job roles while rendering some traditional ones obsolete. To remain competitive, you are forced to acquire digital literacy, understand how AI works, and develop skills in coding, data analysis, and machine learning. This knowledge will not only open doors to emerging career opportunities but also enable them to contribute innovatively in their chosen fields.

Secondly, education systems are increasingly incorporating technology into curricula. Smart classrooms, online learning platforms, and educational software are enhancing the learning experience, making it more interactive and personalized. Youths who are adept at leveraging these tools

can significantly enhance their academic performance and develop a lifelong love for learning. Furthermore, you must cultivate critical thinking and problem-solving skills to navigate the vast amount of information available online and discern credible sources from unreliable ones.

Moreover, the ethical implications of AI and technology cannot be ignored. You need to be aware of issues such as data privacy, cybersecurity, and the potential biases in AI algorithms. Developing a strong ethical framework will empower them to use technology responsibly and contribute to creating a fair and equitable digital society. Understanding the importance of digital ethics can also inspire young people to advocate for policies and practices that promote transparency and accountability



in tech development. Social media, for instance, can be a powerful tool for connection and advocacy but also poses risks like cyberbullying and misinformation. Being tech-savvy includes knowing how to protect oneself and others in the digital realm.

Therefore, adapting to AI and other technologies with smartness involves more than just technical know-how. It requires a holistic approach, encompassing education, ethical understanding, and social awareness. By fostering these skills and mindsets, we can prepare our youth to thrive in a technologically advanced future, ensuring they can leverage these tools to their fullest potential while navigating the complexities they bring.

I would like to highlight the AICTE courses in emerging areas like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Block Chain, Robotics, Quantum Computing, Data Sciences etc. We designed these courses to equip students and faculty with the

necessary digital skills to adapt to the rapidly changing demands of the 21st-century economy. These courses are meticulously designed to provide students with industry-relevant skills, thereby improving their employability and competitiveness in the job market.

Apart from this, AICTE has been taking a lot of initiatives which are in line with the skill development of youths, to make their future equipped with the latest technology. Many of you may not be aware of AICTE's latest partnership with C-CAMP (Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms) to launch the AICTE-Inter-Institutional Biomedical Innovations Programme (IBIP) aims to foster interdisciplinary education, research, and innovation between engineering and medical institutions.

The primary goal of IBIP is to encourage collaboration among engineering and medical graduates, postgraduates, and faculty to address complex challenges in the healthcare sector. The program







promotes accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare solutions by leveraging the complementary skills and knowledge of students from both disciplines. Additionally, IBIP includes an online Bio Entrepreneurship Didactic course accredited by the Healthcare Sector Skill Council to further enhance the participants' skills in entrepreneurship within the healthcare domain.

I encourage each one of you to indulge yourself in interdisciplinary education to expand your horizon. This collaboration is a significant step towards bridging the gap between engineering and medical education, fostering creativity and innovation to advance the field of medicine and improve patient care.

The world you are stepping into is dynamic and constantly evolving. The rapid advancements in technology, especially in the fields of Artificial Intelligence,

Machine Learning, and Data Science, are transforming industries and creating new paradigms. As graduates, you are entering a world where the only constant is change. Embrace this change, for it brings with it endless possibilities.

I am excited to introduce you to the AICTE Anuvadini tool as well, a groundbreaking initiative developed by the All India Council for Technical Education. Anuvadini is a translation tool designed to break down language barriers in technical education. It enables the translation of technical documents, academic content, and more into multiple Indian languages, ensuring that young graduates who may not be proficient in English can access educational materials in their native tongues. This tool not only supports inclusive education by making learning more accessible but also enhances understanding of complex concepts, thereby improving academic performance.

For educators, Anuvadini facilitates the creation of multilingual content and the translation of research papers, fostering a more inclusive and diverse learning environment. By enhancing language skills and technical comprehension, Anuvadini also boosts employability and career prospects for graduates.

Friends, AICTE promises to revolutionize the approach of internships and career placements in technical education across India through its Internship and Placement Portal.

This portal, developed by the All India Council for Technical Education, stands as a beacon of opportunity for our young graduates. It serves as a centralized platform where students can explore a myriad of internship opportunities tailored to their academic disciplines and career aspirations. Whether you're studying engineering, management, pharmacy, or any other technical field, this portal provides access to diverse internship programs that help bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world application.

But the benefits don't stop there. The AICTE Internship and Placement Portal goes beyond just internships. It also connects students with prospective employers, offering a streamlined process for securing job placements post-graduation. This initiative is not just about finding jobs; it's about empowering our students to thrive in the competitive global workforce by providing them with the necessary tools and opportunities to kickstart their careers.

Imagine the impact—a seamless transition from academic excellence to practical experience, all facilitated through a user-friendly online platform. For educators and institutions, this portal serves as a valuable resource to support students in their

professional journeys, ensuring they are well-prepared and equipped with the skills demanded by industry leaders.

So, whether you're a student eager to gain hands-on experience through internships or a graduate ready to embark on your career path, the AICTE Internship and Placement Portal is your gateway to success. Embrace this opportunity, explore the possibilities, and pave the way for a future filled with promise and achievement.

I also urge my young graduates to invest their valuable time in Research & Development. R&D has a bigger role to play in making India a \$5 trillion economy within the next five years, and positioning India among the world's top three economies. The goal to India's growth lies in transforming its vast demographic dividend into a highly skilled technical workforce capable of pioneering cutting-edge research, fostering innovation, and driving deep-tech entrepreneurship. By prioritizing investment in Research and Development (R&D), India can catalyze economic growth, create substantial employment opportunities, and enhance national welfare through the development of new products and services.

India's prowess in research and innovation is evident in its global rankings: among the top four nations in research paper publications, STEM PhDs, and patent filings. The country has consistently improved its standing in global innovation indices, ranking 40th in 2023. This progress underscores India's recognition for its innovation capabilities, particularly in ICT services, R&D initiatives, and market sophistication.

The nation boasts one of the largest startup ecosystems globally, with vibrant hubs in cities like Bengaluru, Delhi, and Mumbai. Over 125 Indian startups have achieved unicorn status, collectively valued at 450



billion dollars, enhancing India's role in the global innovation landscape.

Therefore, it is very much evident that STEM education holds global significance, crucial for driving economic development, fostering innovation, and addressing pressing global challenges. Embracing a global perspective on STEM education acknowledges the interconnected nature of knowledge, emphasizes diverse and inclusive participation, and underscores the responsibility of STEM disciplines in shaping our future.

India's aspiration under the vision of "Viksit Bharat by 2047" is swiftly progressing towards realization. This vision aims to propel every sector of the Indian economy to new heights, anchored in the foundation of a well-educated populace. In the era of "Amrit Kaal," the focus is on a holistic transformation of the education system. Key reforms include graded accreditation and autonomy, the implementation of the One Nation One Data platform for robust

assessment and accreditation, and the cultivation of dynamic education aligned with industry demands.

Central to the Amrit Kaal vision are initiatives to impart 21st-century skills, foster critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, establish a robust research ecosystem, and strengthen industry-academia collaboration. Education in the mother tongue, enhancing youth employability, faculty and student development programs, and internationalizing higher education are pivotal components. These reforms aim not only at self-sufficiency and self-reliance but also at positioning India as a global leader in education and innovation, nurturing a generation marked by confidence, progressiveness, innovation, and empathy.

Our country stands at a crossroads, poised for unprecedented growth and development. You, as the future leaders, have a crucial role to play in shaping this future. Whether you choose to be entrepreneurs, researchers, educators,







or professionals, your contributions will determine the direction our nation takes. Always strive for excellence, and never underestimate the impact of your actions.

Remember, success is not just measured by the positions you hold or the accolades you receive, but by the positive impact you have on others. Strive to be leaders who inspire, innovators who create solutions, and individuals who make a difference in the lives of others.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the faculty and staff of Savitribai Phule Pune University for their unwavering dedication and commitment to nurturing the minds of the future. Your efforts have shaped these young minds, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to excel.

To the parents and families, today is a celebration of your support, sacrifices, and unwavering belief in the potential of your children. Your guidance and encouragement have played a pivotal role in their success. Your countless hours of dedication, whether through late-night study sessions, providing

emotional support, or simply being there with a listening ear, have helped shape their journey to this momentous occasion.

And to you, dear graduates, congratulations! You have achieved a significant milestone, and today, we celebrate you. As you step out into the world, carry with you the lessons you have learned, the friendships you have made, and the memories you have created. Each challenge you have overcome and each success you have enjoyed has prepared you for the adventures that lie ahead.

The future is bright, and it is yours for the taking. Dream big, work hard, and never stop learning. The world is waiting for you to make your mark. Your unique talents, perspectives, and passions will contribute to shaping a better tomorrow. Embrace every opportunity with courage and resilience, knowing that the foundation you have built here will support you in all your endeavors.

Thank you, and once again, congratulations to the Class of 2024!