

**CONVOCATION**

# Dayananda Sagar University

**Bengaluru, Karnataka**

**28 October, 2023**

Namaskara. Good evening to everyone, and congratulations to all of the graduates of Dayananda Sagar University on this special day of 7th Convocation of DSU! Dr Hemachandra Sagar, Hon'ble Chancellor; Dr Premachandra Sagar, Pro chancellor, Vice chancellor Dr. KNB murthy, Pro vice chancellors, Registrar of the university, Deans, Principals, Directors, chair persons, members of Mahatma Gandhi Vidya Peetha Trust (MGVPT); faculty and staff members, invited dignitaries, guests; graduating students, their parents and family members; members of the media; Ladies and Gentlemen –it is my pleasure to be here as the chief guest on the 7th Convocation of DSU. I am happy to know that University has created an ecosystem of innovation, entrepreneurship and translational research through center for excellence and start-ups.

On this convocation day, I am honored to have the opportunity to speak to you and to offer some words of advice as you embark on the next phase of your journey. In my view, education was not just about acquiring information and you need to develop with The new survival skills—

effective communication, curiosity, and critical-thinking skills. Further, university-wide value for innovation, understanding innovation processes, are relevant for student learning and success. “What doesn't work any longer is our education system's stubborn focus on delivering a curriculum that's growing increasingly irrelevant to today's kids”. The assessments now being used at our universities and the command-and-control thinking that is present over the entire process must be rethought.

On this occasion. I also offer my congratulations to the graduating students. Hope that the competences, skills, and attributes that you all students have acquired during your stay at the university will be useful in your future career, but that is not enough, you need a right attitude and values in your life. I also congratulate the proud parents whose role in the success of their children is far larger than the children usually believe at this juncture of their lives. My wholehearted appreciation is also to the faculty, staff of the university and leadership of this institution that have aided in shaping your education, thoughts,

values and careers ahead.

As we all know that we are living in the exciting times in this Digital Era. World is fast changing with disruptive innovations and its impacting every sphere of our lives. Education sector is no exception too. Implementation of NEP 2020 has given impetus to education sector and will boost activities in higher education sector. Research and innovation are two closely related concepts that play a critical role in driving progress and advancement in various fields. Research is being conducted in various fields, including science, technology, mathematics, languages, social sciences, and humanities : – a multidisciplinary approach as emphasized in NEP 2020 is very much needed. Today with disruptive innovations in the area of ICT and mobile technologies, generative AI tools like ChatGPT can replace human beings in many jobs. Many jobs will vanish and new job profiles are created. It is very important for students to update themselves continuously, learn new skills, and, continuous learning becomes critical.

It is important that the education should not only provide students with the skills they needed to succeed in life, but also inspire them to strive for greatness and to make a positive difference in the world.

India is set to embark on an ambitious journey of becoming a global leader. At the heart of India's push for self-reliance (Atmanirbharata) lies a vision to reduce dependence on imports and establish domestic manufacturing capabilities. Our honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasized the importance of India's future and aim to establish the country as a key partner in the global economy. India aspires to become a 5 trillion-dollar economy (3rd largest economy of the world in next 5 years) in a near future. To reach this mark, it needs to evolve system and mechanisms to convert the present demographic dividend into high quality technical human resource, capable of doing cutting edge research and innovation, and deep-tech entrepreneurship. Promoting Innovation, through R&D should help to develop new products and services that drive growth,



create jobs, and improve the national welfare. Research and development (R&D) is the backbone of a globally competitive, knowledge-driven economy. Investing in research and development ensures high market participation. This vision is propelled by several advantages that India possesses, making it a promising destination for innovation and production. Innovation rules the future of work in all sectors in the next decade. India is the 3rd largest startup ecosystem in the world, 110+ Indian startup in the unicorn club, \$450 billion combined valuation of Indian startups. 21% Indian startups are primarily focusing on Global markets. In addition, one of India's key advantages is its vast and burgeoning market potential. With a rapidly growing population and a burgeoning middle class, India offers a huge consumer base for products, providing a strong demand driver for the industry. More specifically, India's talent pool can propel innovation skills by giving a significant emphasis on skill development, research and innovation.

Skill-based learning has become a necessity today as we live in an era of unprecedented transformation. The advent of new technology has led us into a growth-driven era full of opportunities but are we ready to capitalise on this? Of late, there has been attempts for transforming the traditional higher education system into a skill-based one. The National Education Policy 2020 emphasizes practical, hands-on skilling rather than classroom-based learning. What we need is to understand the difference between skill-based and knowledge-based education. The latter involves understanding concepts whereas the former aims to channelise education into a practical form to find solutions. They are looking for talented people who can innovate, are open to learning and re-learning, can apply their knowledge

practically and will also upskill themselves. While our higher Education System is currently undergoing several changes, the growing need for seamless coordination of a classroom-based curriculum and practical skills-based learning demands that our institutions and academicians begin designing a different kind of curriculum that focuses on research, development, and Innovation. India's cost competitiveness for conducting research to attract many opportunities for creating new Knowledge economy is the advantage for India.

I have taken over as Chairman, AICTE in Dec 2022 after my stint as Director of IIT Guwahati. Let me briefly tell you what AICTE does. AICTE was set up in November 1945 as a national-level Apex Advisory Body to conduct a survey on the facilities available for technical education and to promote development in the country in a coordinated and integrated manner. The Council has put in place several initiatives in the last three years to bring about changes in the Approval Process by introducing greater transparency and accountability through the e-governance. AICTE has changed to be a true facilitator and enabler in addition to fulfilling the regulatory provisions. AICTE has more than 3600 engineering colleges with 1 million engineers passing out when compared to 15700 graduates from all 23 IIT's. Research and innovation work has taken roots in our colleges. Chandrayan 3 launching has clearly shown that our students can be trained and placed to do top jobs and innovate. In the last 6 months, I have visited several universities and strongly believe that some of the pvt universities and engg colleges have improved research and innovation ecosystem.

At AICTE, our vision is to provide transformative education to Indian students





to create leaders and innovators, and generate new knowledge for a sustainable society. AICTE has a tremendous role to play as a partner of new knowledge economy to inspire, create and move our society forward. More than 1 million engineers graduate from AICTE institutions and they are the one changing the scenarios in India. With our aim is to make India a global educational knowledge super power with increase in the Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education to 50% by 2035, AICTE has to play a bigger role—to build capacities of the technical institutions through accreditations and ranking, and to make students Industry ready.

AICTE new initiatives: i) Incorporate new areas like semiconductors, advanced telecommunications like 5G and beyond; PM GATI SHAKTI – logistics in academic programs; ii) ATAL – teachers training, iii) AICTE idea labs; iv).AICTE digital skilling programmes, and, v) Improve Public and Private partnership in skilling and employment. The All India Council

for Technical Education (AICTE) has launched a Digital Skilling initiative to upskill 1 crore students and faculty. The initiative aims to equip students and faculty with the necessary digital skills to adapt to the rapidly changing demands of the 21st-century economy. The initiative encompasses a range of online courses in programming, data analytics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. These courses are meticulously designed to provide students with industry-relevant skills, thereby improving their employability and competitiveness in the job market. The Anuvadini Artificial Intelligence text, video, and voice translation tool (developed at AICTE) is an innovative technology that has the potential to revolutionize the way Technical Education is delivered. This state-of-the-art tool employs advanced machine learning algorithms to provide real-time translation of text, video, and voice content.

International cell has been created at AICTE. Twinning Programmes for collaboration with Foreign Universities

are being encouraged. AICTE has also created its own space in the area of Indian Knowledge systems and brought universal human value courses to engineering and diploma students as part of the curriculum. Ministry's Innovation Council at AICTE has nurtured innovation and startup at AICTE Institutions.

On this day of convocation ceremony, first and foremost, I want to remind you to take a moment to reflect on your accomplishments. You have worked hard to get to this point, and it is important to acknowledge and celebrate your achievements. Whether you faced challenges or faced obstacles along the way, you persevered and overcame them, and for that, you should be proud. As you move forward, I encourage you to embrace new experiences and

opportunities that come your way. Remember that education is not just about acquiring knowledge, but also about developing important life skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and leadership. These skills will serve you well in any career or path that you choose. In conclusion, I would like to congratulate you once again on your achievements and wish you all the best as you embark on your next chapter. May you find success, happiness, and fulfillment in all that you do. 'Education for Life' in addition to 'Education for Living' is the key slogan on this day for graduating students. Thank you all for patiently listening to me. Congratulations to the proud parents.

**Jai Bharat. Jai Hind.**

सुखार्थी त्यजते विद्यां विद्यार्थी त्यजते सुखम् ।  
सुखार्थिनः कुतो विद्या कुतो विद्यार्थिनः सुखम् ॥

The one who runs after the luxuries will not get knowledge. And the one who wants to gain knowledge leaves the luxuries. How will anyone get knowledge if he/she wants to lead an easy life? And how will one get to live an easy life who is looking for knowledge?. Learning new things helps us excel in life.