

CONVOCATION

SRM Institute of Science and Technology

Chennai, Tamil Nadu

13 October, 2024

Warm greetings to:

- Dr. T.R. Paarivendhar, Founder Chancellor, SRM Institute of Science and Technology
- Dr. Ravi Pachamuthu, Pro Chancellor
- Dr. P Sathyanarayanan, Pro Chancellor (Academic)
- Dr. R. Sivakumar, Chairman
- Dr. C Ponnusamy, Registrar SRM
- Management Committee Members, Deans, Faculty, Students, Parents, Media Persons, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Vannakam!

Happy Vijaya Dashami to you! Yesterday, we celebrated Dussehra. It is such a meaningful celebration, marking the triumph of good over evil.

Today is a day of immense pride, joy, and reflection. As I stand before you at this grand occasion—the Convocation of SRM University, Chennai—I am filled with immense pride to witness the incredible

achievements of each one of you. This moment signifies years of dedication, hard work, and perseverance. It marks the culmination of a journey that has shaped you, challenged you, and prepared you for the world beyond the campus. My heartfelt congratulations to all the graduating students, to the faculty who have mentored you, and to the parents whose unwavering support has been the backbone of your success.

Vijayadashami is regarded as an auspicious day to embark on new ventures, learn new skills, and perform puja for all tools. It is also celebrated as Vidyarambham, a time to initiate education and knowledge.

To the Graduating Students: This is your moment to celebrate, but remember, this is not the end of your academic journey; it is merely a milestone, a stepping stone to greater things. Learning, my dear friends, is a lifelong process. As you step out of the university gates today, you are not closing a chapter but turning the page to a new one. You are entering a world that is dynamic, fast-paced, and filled with



opportunities, but also one that requires you to continuously adapt, innovate, and learn. The skills and knowledge you have acquired here at SRM University will serve as the foundation, but your curiosity, your passion for learning, and your resilience will determine how high you can rise in your chosen paths.

On this day, we honor Thiruvalluvar and his work, the Thirukkural, which highlights the importance of skill and knowledge for a successful life. Specifically, couplets 441 and 1070 emphasize the value of education and expertise.

SRM University's Impact on Education: I would like to take a moment to commend SRM University, which has played a pivotal role in shaping the future of countless students across India. With campuses that span the length and breadth of our nation, SRM University has become synonymous with academic excellence, innovation, and

a commitment to nation-building. Your institution has fostered a culture of research, encouraged innovation, and empowered students to dream beyond boundaries. The education you have received here is not just about academic knowledge; it is about character-building, leadership, and a sense of responsibility towards society.

Today, you join the illustrious family of SRM alumni—individuals who have gone on to become leaders, innovators, and change-makers in various fields. You are now the ambassadors of SRM University's legacy of excellence, and it is upon you to carry this torch forward, making meaningful contributions wherever you go.

India Leading the World in the 21st Century:

Graduating today, you are stepping into a world where India is no longer just a participant but a leader on the global stage. The 21st century belongs to India, and the progress we have made in recent





years is a testament to the vision, hard work, and determination of our people. Our nation is at the forefront in multiple sectors, from digital innovation and healthcare to economic growth and the startup ecosystem. Let me share a few examples of India's remarkable achievements:

1. **Digital Transformation through UPI:** India has revolutionized digital payments through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), becoming a global leader in digital transactions. Today, UPI is not just a tool for cashless payments but a symbol of our digital prowess, making financial services accessible to millions, including those in remote areas.
2. **Healthcare Milestones:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, India emerged as a global leader in vaccine production and distribution. Our

nation successfully delivered over 2 billion vaccine doses, making a significant impact not only within our borders but also across the world through the 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative. India's ability to produce and distribute vaccines on such a large scale has showcased our strength in the healthcare sector.

3. **A Booming Startup Ecosystem:** India is home to the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world, with thousands of startups driving innovation across industries like fintech, edtech, agritech, and more. Companies like Zomato, BYJU'S, and Ola are now global names, and many of these startups have their roots in the passion and creativity of young graduates like you.
4. **Economic Growth and Innovation:** Our nation's economy is one of the

fastest-growing in the world, and India is making significant strides towards becoming a \$5 trillion economy. With initiatives like 'Make in India' and 'Digital India,' we are creating an environment where innovation thrives, and every young entrepreneur can turn their ideas into reality.

These achievements are not just milestones; they are a reflection of India's potential and the opportunities that lie before you. As graduates, you have the chance to contribute to this exciting journey. The world needs your energy, your ideas, and your commitment to making India a leader in every field.

AICTE's Role in Empowering Students and Faculty: At AICTE, we are committed to creating an ecosystem that supports your growth, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Our aim is to provide you with the tools and opportunities needed to succeed in the modern world. Let me take this opportunity to highlight some of the key initiatives AICTE has launched recently:

- **Collaboration with SIDM for Defence and Aerospace:** We recently signed an MoU with the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) to encourage and support students to explore opportunities in the defence and aerospace sectors. This collaboration aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry, providing students with practical exposure and hands-on experience in these critical fields. With the world moving towards advanced technologies in defence, we believe that India's youth can play a pivotal role in making our

nation self-reliant in this sector.

- **New Curriculum for Textile Engineering and BCA:** AICTE has recently launched updated curricula for the Textile Engineering and Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) programs, aligning them with the latest industry standards and technological advancements. The new curricula emphasize practical learning, industry collaboration, and hands-on projects to ensure that students are well-prepared for the demands of the industry.
- **Skill Development Initiatives:** AICTE has been at the forefront of skill development with many initiatives and collaborations with industry leaders, which provides access to AI-based personalized learning solutions. Our focus is on ensuring that students are not only equipped with academic knowledge but are also skilled and ready for the future job market. Whether it is through scholarships, internships, or industry partnerships, we are committed to making India's youth future-ready.

An Entrepreneurial Mindset for the Future: Dear students, as you step into the next phase of your life, I urge you to embrace an entrepreneurial mindset. Today's world needs job creators, not just job seekers. India's startup ecosystem has shown that innovative ideas can become successful enterprises, creating employment and contributing to the economy. If you have a vision, pursue it with passion and determination. If you have an idea, turn it into a reality. AICTE is here to support you on this journey, whether through incubation centers,



startup mentorship programs, or seed funding opportunities.

Remember, entrepreneurship is not just about starting a company; it is a way of thinking. It is about identifying opportunities, solving problems, and creating value for society. It is about resilience in the face of challenges and the courage to take risks. The entrepreneurial spirit can drive you to explore uncharted territories and make a lasting impact on the world.

As I conclude, I want you all to remember that the future holds endless possibilities for those who are willing to dream big, work hard, and stay true to their values. The education you have received at SRM University has given you the foundation; now

it is up to you to build on it with dedication, passion, and a sense of purpose. Let your journey be guided by a commitment to excellence, a desire to make a difference, and a belief in the limitless potential of this great nation.

The 21st century truly belongs to India, and you are the torchbearers of this new era. The world is watching, and the future is waiting for the mark that you will make on it.

May you carry the values of integrity, empathy, and innovation wherever you go. May you continue to shine brightly and bring glory to your families, your university, and your nation.

Thank you, Jai Hind!