Hon. Dr. Mrs. Deepti Deshpande Madam Video for Parel College Web Conference
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President of today's function, Dr. S. V. Santha, Chairperson of Gokhale Education Society and Zonal Secretary of Mumbai Zoo, Professor Dr. S. V. Karande, Principal of the host college and the Conference Director, Organizing Team Members, all the dignitaries on the dais, elites from parade, office bearers of Gokhale Education Society, principals, vice principals, members of the staff, participant delegates and dear students, it gives me great pleasure to be amidst you in this August gathering. Friends, today we are here to have the inaugural function of a national level multidisciplinary web conference on the theme modern India 2047, a multidisciplinary roadmap towards Vikasic Bharat. And so, without wasting time, at the outset, I declare open this one day national web conference.

The host college T.K. Tope Arts and Commerce Night College is the first night degree college affiliated to Mumbai University established in June 1984. The college has successfully completed 42 years. Though these four decades, the college has catered to the need of quality education of the working class, it has also brought the other students with its inclusive education.

I am happy that the college has thought of such a relevant theme for its web conference today. This theme is not merely a topic of academic discussion. It is a national responsibility and a collective dream for every citizen of India.

Vikasic Bharat 2047 is the government of India's ambitious vision to transform the nation into a fully developed, self-reliant and prosperous country by the 100th anniversary of its independence in 2047. This vision emphasizes economic strength, technological leadership, social harmony, environmental sustainability, and above all, empowers human capital. I think it is here that education plays the most decisive role.

In this context, I feel proud to highlight the remarkable contribution of Gokhale Education Society, which has been serving the nation for over 108 glorious years. The society is run by experienced teachers who work as administrators. We have always believed that education is the most powerful instrument of national transformation.

Prime movers like Principal Dr. M. S. Goswami Sir, Principal S. B. Pandit Sir, Founder Principal T. Kulkarni Sir, have given us a rich legacy of the student-centric education ecosystem. For more than a century, the society has contributed selflessly towards providing quality education in rural and tribal regions and promoting women's education and empowerment long before it became a national priority. The society has established 140 plus institutions across diverse fields such as arts, science, commerce, engineering, medicine, management, and skill development and nurtured generations of students who have become scientists, teachers, administrators, entrepreneurs, and socially responsible citizens.

I always feel that as teachers and as thought leaders, we must ask ourselves, are we preparing our students only for examinations or are we preparing them for life? Are we giving them information or are we giving igniting imagination in them? Are we teaching them subjects or are we shaping citizens? The answer to these questions, I think, will determine the future of India. Today, as we speak of India 2047, we must recognize that the roadmap towards a developed nation rests on five fundamental pillars. First, knowledge and innovation.

India must become not just a consumer of knowledge but a creator of knowledge. Our universities and institutions must become hubs of research, creativity, and innovation. Students must be encouraged to question, explore, experiment, and innovate.

Secondly, technology and human values. Artificial intelligence, digital transformation, and automation are reshaping our world. But technology must be guided by ethics, empathy, and human welfare.
Multidisciplinary education ensures that technology serves humanity and not the other way around. Third one is skill development and employability. Education must prepare students not only for degrees but for life.
Skills such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and problem solving are essential for the workforce of the future. Fourth, fundamentally, sustainability and responsibility. A developed India must also be a sustainable India.
Environmental consciousness, responsible consumption, and respect for nature must be integral to our education and development. Fifth one is nation building through character. Ultimately, the strength of a nation lies in the character of its people.
Education must nurture honesty, integrity, compassion, and a sense of national duty.
Friends, the future of India cannot be shaped by a single discipline. We all know this.
It must emerge from the convergence of science and humanity, technology and ethics, innovation and compassion, research and social responsibility. A multidisciplinary approach ensures that we do not create only skilled professionals but thoughtful citizens, visionary leaders, and responsible nation builders. Another important angle to the point is that the most powerful force that will shape India 2047 is the youth.
Our young minds are not just the leaders of tomorrow. They are the creators of tomorrow. It is our responsibility as educators to guide them, inspire them, and empower them.
Web conferences like this play a crucial role in bringing together diverse perspectives, encouraging dialogue, and fostering collaboration. They reflect the true spirit of multidisciplinary thinking where ideas flow freely across boundaries and solutions evolve through collective wisdom. The journey towards Vikasid Bharat is not the responsibility of the government alone.
We should remember this. It is the shared responsibility of institutions, teachers, researchers, students, and society at large. Institutions like Gokhale Education Society, with their rich legacy and unwavering commitment, stand as shining examples of how education can transform individuals and through them, transform the nation.
As I conclude, I would like to remind you of a timeless truth that education is not merely about making a living. It is about making a life and, more importantly, making a nation.
Friends, let us work together with knowledge in our minds, values in our hearts, and vision in our eyes to build a strong, inclusive, innovative, and developed India by 2047.
I feel that the objective of today's conference is to provide a scholarly platform for researchers and intellectuals to deliberate on multidisciplinary perspectives contributing to a developed India by 2047 will be achieved. I also hope that the suggestions and recommendations given in the deliberations today and the views shared by experts will be of great help to the academicians, students, and to the society as a whole. Lastly, I congratulate Dr. Karande and his entire team for organizing the web conference so neatly. My best wishes for the success of this conference. I wish good luck to all the participants. May the deliberations lead us through correct mindsets to actualize the vision of Vikasit Bharat 2047.
Thank you. Thank you very much.
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