

visionaries who gathered to draft the Indian Constitution. We cherish the principles outlined in our Constitution, as they form the very foundation of our existence. He further mentioned that this year's theme, *Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas* highlights India's rich past and bright future as our country ascends to the global stage as one of the most important forces.

He said that India continues its rise as a global science and technology powerhouse, achieving remarkable milestones across diverse domains. Our nation demonstrated its global leadership with advancements in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, defence, nuclear energy, and space. India's healthcare trajectory in 2024 reflects a blend of promise and challenges. Breakthroughs in 2024 include an indigenous antibiotic, Nafithromycin, offering a revolutionary treatment against drug-resistant pneumonia, and NexCAR19, the nation's first home-grown CAR-T cell therapy for cancer.

Further, for NIPER SAS Nagar's achievements, he said that honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji virtually laid the foundation stone of the Centre of Excellence for Anti-Viral and Anti-Bacterial Drug Discovery and Development. The Centre aims to discover new drug candidates, synthesize API and key intermediates of existing drugs, and develop peptide-based vaccines for infectious diseases and affordable diagnostics platforms. The institute has been working diligently to increase its faculty strength. Ten faculty members have joined and seven will be joining soon. The present faculty strength will help to create an advanced student-centric personalized education and research ecosystem at NIPER. To strengthen alumni activities, the 1st Global Alumni Meet was organized at NIPER SAS Nagar, and over 100 alumni from across the globe participated. The Institute maintains its place among the top institutes within the country in terms of research indicators such as average impact factor, H-Index, and citations per faculty. In the QS world ranking 2024, it was again ranked first in India, eleventh in Asia, and 64th Globally in the Pharmacy and Pharmacology category. Several faculty members are included in the subject-wise world ranking of the top 2% of scientists. The Institute is working in cutting-edge research areas and has published over 200 publications in international journals of high repute and 15 patents were filed in the last academic year. The institute is also continuously strengthening its interaction with the domestic and global pharmaceutical industry and 12 CDAs and 5 MoUs were signed in areas of mutual interest. Prof. Panda informed the audience that the Institute is constantly working towards the dissemination of knowledge and the upgradation of skills of its stakeholders. Two ITEC Programmes for 41 international participants, Ayurinformatics and Samprabhav like symposium/conferences and Seminars, webinars, and workshops were organized. A total of 152 participants were trained under 24 different training programmes, 03 Scientific Social Responsibility training sessions were organized, and 1235 students visited in groups under the 21 Educational visits to the institute.

In line with the Digital India initiative, the Institute has implemented a 100% online collection of Semester Fees and 100% Aadhaar Seeding for Stipend Payment. The degree recipients were given degrees integrated with QR codes. In the end, he said that our Constitution is our guiding document. Its Preamble contains the ideals of our freedom struggle. Let us move forward with the spirit of harmony and brotherhood to realize the dreams of our nation-builders.

It was followed by the cultural programme where the students, children of the staff and outsourced staff presented colourful programmes under the theme of patriotism. The ceremony ended with the distribution of sweets to all the attendees.