
A Glimpse into the Future:

Visit to the Padmashri Prataprao Pawar Kaushalya Ani Udyojakta Vikas Kendra

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On 15th August, 2026, Ms. Varsha Deshmukh and Ms. Shailaja Mestry had the privilege of visiting the Padmashri Prataprao Pawar Kaushalya Ani Udyojakta Vikas Kendra, Vidyarthi Sahayyak Samiti, Pune, to attend the inauguration of its AI and Robotics Laboratory. The visit offered them a stimulating glimpse into the rapidly evolving world of Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Mechatronics and Automation, while highlighting the

importance of providing learners with opportunities to engage with emerging technologies beyond the traditional classroom.

The inauguration was graced by eminent personalities, including renowned scientist Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar and visionary industrialist and long-serving President of Vidyarthi Sahayyak Samiti, Mr. Prataprao Pawar. Dr. Desai Sir was also present on the occasion, and his encouragement, guidance and support added special significance to the visit.

Listening to these accomplished personalities and gaining insights into their experiences and perspectives proved deeply inspiring for Ms. Deshmukh and Ms. Mestry. Their contributions to education, innovation and technological development reinforced the importance of curiosity, perseverance and a willingness to embrace new possibilities.



The newly inaugurated AI and Robotics Laboratory represents a significant step towards creating opportunities for practical, technology-enabled learning. The facility can enable students to explore robotics, artificial intelligence, automation and mechatronics while developing the ability to experiment, think creatively and apply their knowledge to real-world challenges. Such exposure can also nurture problem-solving abilities, innovation and an entrepreneurial mindset.



During their visit, Ms. Deshmukh and Ms. Mestry also had the opportunity to explore Vidya Pratishthan's "Technology on Wheels", a mobile educational initiative designed to take modern technological learning closer to students, particularly those in rural areas. The initiative provides exposure to emerging fields including Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Robotics, Smart Automation and Drone Making. Exploring the mobile

laboratory gave them a valuable opportunity to understand how technology can be made more accessible and how hands-on experiences can transform the way students learn.

The visit reaffirmed an important truth: education extends far beyond textbooks and classrooms. Experiencing innovative learning environments, interacting with accomplished professionals and witnessing technology in action can broaden perspectives and inspire educators and learners alike to look towards the future with greater curiosity and confidence.



For Ms. Deshmukh and Ms. Mestry, the experience was particularly meaningful. Meeting and listening to individuals who have made significant contributions to science, industry, education and social development gave them an opportunity to reflect on the role educators can play in preparing young minds for a rapidly changing world.



They returned from the visit with renewed enthusiasm to explore emerging technologies, encourage innovation and create meaningful learning experiences for students. The occasion served not merely as an introduction to AI and Robotics, but as an invitation to learn continuously, question convention, experiment fearlessly and prepare learners for the possibilities of tomorrow.

Ms. Varsha Deshmukh and Ms. Shailaja Mestry sincerely express their gratitude to the Respected Principal Ma'am and the esteemed school management, with special appreciation for Dr. Desai Sir, whose encouragement, guidance and support made their participation in this enriching experience possible.

Their trust in providing opportunities that extend learning beyond the classroom is deeply appreciated. Experiences such as these broaden perspectives, build confidence and encourage educators to bring new ideas and possibilities into the learning environment.



The visit to the Padmashri Prataprao Pawar Kaushalya Ani Udyojakta Vikas Kendra and the inauguration of the AI and Robotics Laboratory will remain a memorable and enriching experience for both. More importantly, it has strengthened their resolve to continue learning, exploring and embracing innovation so that they can inspire students to navigate—and shape—the technological future with confidence.