

India's First International Multidisciplinary Conference in a Rural Region Integrating Pharmacy, Engineering, and Management Sets a New Benchmark at Phadtare Knowledge City

Kalamb–Walchandnagar, Indapur Taluka, Pune District:

In a landmark moment for rural higher education in India, Phadtare Knowledge City, Kalamb–Walchandnagar, successfully hosted the “International Summit on Future-Ready Pharmacy, Engineering and Management Science” on 6th and 7th February 2026, marking the first-ever international, multidisciplinary academic conference of its kind to be held in a rural region of the country. The summit brought together pharmacy, engineering, and management sciences on a single global platform, redefining the traditional boundaries of academic conferences that are usually restricted to metropolitan cities. By hosting an event of such international scale in a rural setting, Phadtare Knowledge City demonstrated that global academic excellence, innovation, and international collaboration are no longer confined to urban centers.

For decades, international conferences have largely been organized in metropolitan cities with advanced infrastructure and established global connectivity. However, this summit challenged that norm by proving that rural India is equally capable of hosting world-class academic events. Located in Kalamb village near Walchandnagar, Taluka Indapur, Phadtare Knowledge City has emerged as a comprehensive educational ecosystem catering to students from school level to doctoral research. The organization of this international summit symbolized a powerful transition — from rural aspiration to global academic participation. Educationists, researchers, policymakers, industry experts, and students from India and abroad participated in the two-day summit, reinforcing the idea that knowledge has no geographical boundaries.

The International Summit on Future-Ready Pharmacy, Engineering and Management Science was conceived as a multidisciplinary global platform addressing the evolving needs of professional education and industry. The summit focused on: Emerging technologies and future-ready skill sets, Interdisciplinary integration of healthcare, engineering, and management, Research excellence and innovation-driven solutions, Ethical leadership and sustainable development, Global academic collaboration and knowledge exchange. The conference reflected the interconnected nature of pharmacy, engineering, and management sciences in addressing contemporary societal, industrial, and healthcare challenges.

The conference commenced with a dignified inaugural ceremony and a comprehensive welcome address by Dr. Arun Ingle, Campus Director, Phadtare Knowledge City. Dr. Ingle highlighted the journey of Phadtare Knowledge City, established in 2007, and its evolution into a center of excellence for rural and semi-urban students. He emphasized that the institution was founded on the belief that education is the most powerful

instrument of socio-economic transformation, particularly in rural India. He acknowledged the visionary leadership of Hon. Uttamrao Phadtare, President, Hon. Dattatray Phadtare, Secretary, Mr. Jay Phadtare, Chief Executive Officer, Mrs. Kalyani Phadtare, Dr. Shaila Phadtare, and the entire trustee body. Dr. Ingle credited their commitment to rural education, innovation, and entrepreneurship for transforming the campus into a globally connected educational hub.

A defining highlight of the summit was the presence of Mr. Abdul 'Dewale' Mohammed (ADM), who traveled over 24 hours from London, United Kingdom, to attend the conference in rural Maharashtra. Mr. Mohammed is the Group Executive President of the Africa Asia Scholars Global Network (AASGON) and the Founder and Executive Chairman of the Global South Economic Forum (GSEF), London. Widely recognized as a global strategist, institution builder, and advocate for Global South-North equity, his participation elevated the international stature of the summit. In his address, he spoke passionately about Inclusive global development, Education as a catalyst for social equity, Institutional reform as a pathway to sustainable growth, Youth empowerment and child welfare initiatives. He also highlighted his organization's efforts in mobilizing nearly £50 million for social causes globally and announced 100% tuition-free scholarship opportunities for Indian students, reinforcing the summit's global impact.

The summit was further enriched by the presence of Dr. Kuldip S. Charak, Pro-Chancellor, Langbustech University, New Jersey, USA. Dr. Charak elaborated on the purpose and significance of international Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), emphasizing Cross-border academic exchange, Joint research initiatives, Ethical governance and visionary leadership, Global exposure for rural institutions. He noted that partnerships between rural Indian institutions and international universities represent a new global academic model, where innovation and inclusivity go hand in hand.

Renowned Indian Educationist Dr. E. B. Khedkar, Vice-President of Ajeenkya D. Y. Patil University and Group, Pune, delivered an inspiring address to students and researchers. He encouraged them to Pursue interdisciplinary research, Embrace innovation with social responsibility, develop leadership skills aligned with national and global needs.

The summit also featured thought-provoking addresses by eminent academicians such as Dr. Rajendrakumar Tated, Director and Professor, SNJB's KBJ College of Engineering, Dr. L. K. Tripathi, Director, SBIIMS, Pune, Dr. Anandrao Dadas, Director, Wadia College, Pune, Dr. Dhananjay Bagul, Director, Anekant Institute of Management, Dr. Dnyaneshwar Pisal, Director, SVPM Institute of Management. Each speaker contributed insights into education reform, research excellence, and industry relevance.

Phadtare Knowledge City stands as a holistic educational campus, offering a seamless academic journey from school education to postgraduate and doctoral research. Institutions under the Phadtare Group include Maharashtra Institute of Management (MBA, MCA, BCA, Ph.D.), Babasaheb Phadtare College of Engineering

(Diploma & Degree), Late Laxmibai Phadtare College of Pharmacy (D.Pharm, B.Pharm, M.Pharm), Junior College, ITI, Nursing College (GNM), English Medium School (Nursery to Std. 10), AI-based education initiatives and competitive exam centers. With nearly 4,000 students and 200+ staff members, the campus represents a model of education-industry integration in rural India.

The summit's multidisciplinary nature was reflected in its extensive thematic coverage Pharmacy: Advances in pharmaceutical sciences, drug discovery, regulatory affairs, pharmacovigilance, digital health, and quality assurance, Engineering: Artificial intelligence, machine learning, automation, robotics, renewable energy, smart manufacturing, sustainable engineering, and Industry 4.0. Management: Strategic management, entrepreneurship, innovation ecosystems, digital transformation, leadership, ethics, and sustainability. Cross-domain themes such as technology-enabled healthcare management, engineering solutions for pharmaceutical industries, and policy frameworks were also emphasized.

On the second day, Dr. Prafulla Balkrishna Choudhari, Professor at Bharati Vidyapeeth College of Pharmacy, Kolhapur, delivered an in-depth session on online tools for computational research, introducing platforms such as OSADHI, IMPPAT, COCONUT 2.0, Deep-PK, pkCSM, and toxCSM. Another key session was conducted by Dr. Didar Ali Mahammad Tamboli, Assistant Manager, Inducare Research Foundation and Innovation Limited, who discussed quality control practices, GMP, GLP compliance, regulatory documentation, and 21 CFR standards.

The summit witnessed an overwhelming response: 1000+ total registrations, 150 research papers and poster presentations, 400 student participants, 100 faculty members, 10 universities from India and abroad. This level of participation reaffirmed the summit's academic credibility and global relevance.

A major milestone of the summit was the signing of international MoUs with Africa Asia Scholars Global Network (AASGON), Global South Economic Forum (GSEF), London, Langbustech University, New Jersey, USA by Phadtare Knowledge City.

These collaborations symbolize a shared vision of "Smart Villages to Smart Cities", positioning rural education at the center of global knowledge exchange. The conference concluded with a valedictory session and prize distribution for oral and poster paper presentations, recognizing research excellence among young scholars. The International Summit on Future-Ready Pharmacy, Engineering and Management Science stands as a defining milestone in India's rural higher education journey. By successfully hosting the country's first international multidisciplinary conference in a rural region, Phadtare Knowledge City has set a powerful precedent for institutions across the nation. The summit demonstrated that rural India is not on the periphery of global knowledge — it is emerging as its new frontier.