

The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education
(Deemed to be University u/s 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)

The Ninth Convocation
July 12, 2019

A Report by the Vice Chancellor
J Mahender Reddy

1. Introduction

Good afternoon.

Respected Chancellor Dr. C Rangarajan; Chief Guest Mr. Ravi Venkatesan, Dr A V Rama Rao; Chairperson of ICFAI Society Mrs. N. Sobharani Yasaswy; Mr. V R Sankara, President, Board of Governors, The ICFAI Society; Mr. E N Murthy, Member-Secretary, The ICFAI Society; Prof R P Kaushik, Prof T Tirupathi Rao, Prof S Raghunath, and other distinguished members of the Board of Management; members of the Academic Council, the Finance Committee, and the Planning and Monitoring Board; members of the faculty, staff, and graduating students, parents, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen. A warm welcome to you all. In what follows I wish to present a report on the activities of the university during the year 2018-19. First on

2. Accreditations and Rankings

I am happy to inform you that in the NIRF Indian Rankings 2019, our Faculty of Management (ICFAI Business School) received the 26th All India Rank.

The University has been accredited by NAAC with an 'A+' Grade and a CGPA of 3.43 out of 4.00. This is valid till June 2020.

We have been accorded Category II Autonomous status by UGC. We were one among 62 Universities to receive the autonomy.

IBS Hyderabad, the business school of the University, received the SAQS re-accreditation from AMDISA. We have initiated the process for the 3rd cycle of accreditation.

IBS Hyderabad has submitted the 3rd initial Self Evaluation Report (iSER) to AACSB International, Tampa, Florida. We expect the Peer Team to visit us in the coming months. The coveted international accreditation should be in place by 2020.

We have also got excellent ratings from ICRA and CRISIL and very good ratings from several other agencies like Silicon India, Times B-School, Business World, Education World, Careers 360, India Today, and the Global Human Resource Development Centre.

3. Research

The university gives high priority to research and the entire faculty is engaged in it. The areas of research contributed by the faculty during the year 2018-19 are regulation & financial stability; Asset valuation and pricing, Digital marketing; Telemedicine & digital technologies in healthcare; Positive psychology; Digital communication systems; Artificial Intelligence; Machine learning; Robotics; Cybercrimes; Solid waste management etc. During this year the faculty have published 189 papers in reputed journals including A*/A,B,C, Scopus, Web of Science etc.

4. Research Projects

In the year 2018-19, seed money amounting to Rs. 36.65 lakh was sanctioned for 18 research projects. These are in the areas of block chain technology, deep learning, disaster management, hybrid vehicle development, social security, advertising and branding, Indo-Bangladesh trade etc.

The faculty members in the engineering college are pursuing five research projects amounting to Rs. 66.7 lacs sponsored by the Science Engineering Research Board (SERB), New Delhi, and Teacher Associate-ship for Research Excellence (TARE).

5. Case Research Center

- a. The ICFAI Business School of the University follows the case approach in its teaching. It has a globally renowned Case Research Center and is among the *top three* contributors (next only to Harvard and INSEAD) to the world's largest repository of management cases. One of our faculty members, Dr. Debapratim Purkayastha, was declared as the Number one bestselling author of Management case studies by The Case Centre in 2016, 2017, and 2018, in a list otherwise dominated by Harvard, INSEAD, and IMD professors.
- b. The ICFAI Business School faculty members won three awards each in the highly prestigious Belgium-based EFMD case awards and the UK-based The Case Centre awards. This includes the 'Outstanding Compact Case Writer' award for the innovative comic case "Turbulence on the Tarmac" by Dr. Debapratim Purkayastha and Mr. Sid Ghosh in February 2019.

6. Management Development Programs

The University has a strong industry interface through Management Development Programs for the public and private sectors and the government. To strengthen this interface, we offered 26 Management Development Programs (MDPs) consisting of 1485 participant days during the year to several organizations including the Indian Railways, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), Khadi and Village Industries (KVIC), and India Post. The number of participant days and the total revenue more than tripled during the year 2018-19 as against 2017-18.

7. Innovation is important in teaching, research and administration and is critical in entrepreneurship development. The Center for Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Incubation (CIEI) was established in February 2019 with an objective to nurture entrepreneurial qualities among the students. The center has taken up many activities to promote entrepreneurship.

8. Center for Women Development

The Center for Women Development organized CEO Women Conclave on the theme “Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world” in September 2018 and several other activities.

9. Center for Environmental Studies

The Center for Environmental Studies has conducted one week refresher training program for the Indian Forest Service Officers during July 23-27, 2018. The objective of the program was to discuss the laws governing environment protection and forest conservation. It was attended by 25 Indian Forest Officers from different states of the country. This program was conducted again during July 8-12, 2019 to another set of senior Forest Service Officers.

10. Center for Cyber Law

The Centre for Cyber Laws has organized Essay Writing and Elocution Competitions on the themes "Data Protection Laws" and "Hate Speech on Internet" on March 26, 2019. Out of 35 students who participated, four have been declared as winners and runners up and awarded cash prizes.

11. School of Architecture

The ICFAI School of Architecture (ISArch), established in the year 2018, offers a five-year full time B.Arch. Degree Program which is recognized by the Council of Architecture (COA).

The school organized several seminars and workshops for the benefit of the students and faculty members. Distinguished architects Mr Shirish Beri and Dr. Massimo Vianello and several others participated in the seminars.

The students also participated in a national design competition organized by The Vowels Idea League (October 1-15, 2018). There were over 200 participants from all over India in the competition. The ICFAI School of Architecture students were shortlisted in the top 10 design entries.

The school of architecture had an MOU with Green Business Certification Institute, headquartered in Washington DC. It will help our students to learn more about green rating certification system towards sustainability.

12. The Academy of International Business Workshop and Conference

The Academy of International Business India Chapter organized its Annual IND-IB Workshop as well as Paper Development Workshop during December 18-20, 2018.

Prof. Farok J. Contractor, Rutgers University; Prof. Elizabeth L. Rose, University of Leeds; Prof. S. Raghunath, IIM Bangalore, AIB India Chapter Chair; Prof. Ram Mudambi, Temple University; Prof. S. Sahasranamam, Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship, Strathclyde Business School, UK; and Prof. Rajesh Upadhyayula, IIM Kozhikode were the resource persons in the workshop

The University also organized the annual conference of the India Chapter from April 22-24, 2019. It was inaugurated by our Chancellor, Dr C Rangarajan, who spoke on the theme “Going International: Challenges and Opportunities”. In all, 30 papers were presented of which six were from the business school of this University. There was a session on “Publication of Research Papers”, which focused on the issues involved in publishing quality research papers. Other resource persons for this conference included Prof Sathyajit Gubbi of the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, Prof Elizabeth Rose of Leeds University; Mr V Ramakrishnan, Chief Finance Officer, TCS, Mumbai; Mr P A Praveen, Director Aerospace and Defense, Government of Telangana. There were a few participants from abroad including Japan and Europe.

13. Round Table on Draft National Education Policy 2019

Round Table on Draft National Education Policy 2019 was conducted on 26th June, 2019. Prof. C. Rangarajan, Chancellor, delivered the inaugural address. Dr. B. Janardhan Reddy, Secretary, Education, Government of Telangana was the guest of honor. Members of the Board of Management, IFHE, Chancellors, Vice Chancellors, Registrars, Directors and Deans and other distinguished members participated. The outcome of these deliberations will be submitted to the Ministry of Human Resource Development and to the UGC.

14. Special Lectures

We are all here today because of the Founder Mr N J Yaraswy. We have been conducting memorial lectures annually. The Seventh N J Yaraswy Memorial Lecture, instituted in the memory of the founder of the university, was delivered by Mr Amitab Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, on November 1, 2018. The lecture was presided over by the Chancellor Dr C. Rangarajan.

The Ninth Foundation Day Lecture was delivered by Mr Lakshmikumaran, Managing Partner, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan, Attorneys, New Delhi, on February 8, 2019. It was presided over by the Chancellor, Dr C. Rangarajan. Mr Lakshmikumaran spent the afternoon interacting with the students and the faculty members of the law department.

15. Other lectures

Other distinguished visitors include

- Prof V S Chauhan, Chairman, Executive Council, NAAC
- Prof Elizabeth L Rose, University of Leeds
- Prof Jagdish Sheth, distinguished Professor of Marketing, Emory University
- Honorable Mr Justice Raghavendra Chauhan, Chief Justice of High Court of Telangana
- Mr Injeti Srinivas, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India
- Dr M S Sahoo, Chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
- Dr Subhash C Kuntia, Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
- Dr B Janardhan Reddy, Secretary, Department of Education, Government of Telangana
- Prof T Papi Reddy, Chairman, Telangana State Council of Higher Education
- Dr Venkataramana, Vice Chairman, TSCHE.

16. Addresses by the Vice Chancellor

The Vice Chancellor participated in the National Seminar on “Ranking, Accreditation and Quest for Quality: International Scenario and the Indian Perspective” organized by NAAC in Bengaluru on September 19, 2018. He gave a presentation on the theme “Ranking, Accreditation, and Internal Quality Assurance System”.

The Vice Chancellor participated in the International Conference for Development Discourse (ICDD) held from February 8 - 10, 2019, at Hyderabad. He chaired a session on the *developmental issues*. The Hon’ble Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, was the Chief Guest for the conference. Several vice chancellors from the central and state universities participated.

The Vice Chancellor also participated in the Round Table Conference on ‘Draft National Education Policy 2019’ organized by the Telangana State Council of Higher Education on June 24, 2019. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Papi Reddy. Several vice chancellors participated.

17. Student Activities

The University has 48 student clubs which provide a platform to the students to continuously hone their leadership and team spirit. During the last academic year, these clubs conducted close to a thousand events, and also participated in many numerous competitions conducted in several reputed institutions including IITs and IIMs.

18. Placements by the Corporate Relations Department

In the Faculty of Management, placements for the MBA students have been good with a historic achievement of more than 1000 students being placed out of 1050 who opted for placements. The recruitments were done by more than 200 companies from various sectors of industry, with 75% of them being repeat recruiters.

In the Faculty of Science and Technology out of 181 students qualified for graduation, 66 opted for higher education and 84 have been placed till date.

In the Faculty of Law out of 57 graduating students, 25 opted for higher education, 13 for business and practice and another 9 got placed in reputed investment and law firms.

19. Graduating Students

In all 1687 students will graduate in this convocation with PhD, MBA, BBA, MMS (Distance mode), B.Tech, BBA-LLB Honors, and LLM degrees.

20. Medals, Prizes and Awards

In this convocation The N J Yasaswy – Apollo Hospital best teacher award and best student awards will be presented. In addition gold medals for six students and silver medals for five students will be presented.

This year the IBS Alumni Federation Best Teacher Award of Rs. 1,00,000/- was given to Dr Debajani Sahoo, Professor of Marketing, and Institutional Development Award of Rs. 30,000/- was given to Professor S. Venkata Seshaiyah, Director of the Business School.

21. Conclusion

To sum up, 2018-19 has been a great year in terms of excellence in teaching, research, and practice. I congratulate the students, faculty and support staff for bringing laurels to the University and contributing to the development of this institution.

We are honored by the presence of our Chancellor, Dr. C. Rangarajan, and our distinguished Chief Guest, Mr. Ravi Venkatesan. We look to our Chancellor as a source of inspiration in our pursuit of excellence. We are grateful to him for accepting our invitation. We are also grateful to the Chief Guest, Mr Ravi Venkatesan, for his presence in spite of his hectic schedule. We thank Professor A. V. Rama Rao for accepting to receive honorary doctorate today.

I also wish to express my deep sense of gratitude for the tremendous support and cooperation we have received from the members of the Board of Management, Academic Council, Finance Committee, Planning & Monitoring Board, Strategic Management Committee, IQAC, and the Boards of Studies of various Faculties.

I would like to make a special mention of the parents of our students and all the graduating students who have graced this occasion with their presence. We value your presence immensely.

I take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to all the stakeholders of the University – students, teachers, staff, alumni, recruiters, Chairperson Mrs Sobharani Yasaswy, and the Trustees Mr V R Sankara and Mr E N Murthy for their whole hearted cooperation.

Thank you.
