

ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education

(Deemed-to-be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)

Category I Autonomous Institution • Accredited by NAAC with 'A++' Grade

A Report by the Vice Chancellor



Prof. L S Ganesh

Vice Chancellor,

The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education

14th Convocation

Saturday 03rd August, 2024



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Saturday, 03rd August, 2024, 11:00 am

I. Introduction

Respected Chancellor, Dr. C Rangarajan ji; Honorable Chief Guest, Professor T. G. Sitharam ji, Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE); Mrs. N. Sobharani Yasaswy ji, Chairperson, and Mr. V. R. Sankara ji, President, Board of Governors of the ICFAI Society; distinguished members of the Board of Management, members of the Academic Council, the Finance Committee, the Planning and Monitoring Board, and the Internal Quality Assurance Cell; members of the faculty and staff, graduands, parents, and well-wishers; members of the media, ladies and gentlemen, a warm welcome to you all.

We are honored by the presence of our Chancellor, Dr. C. Rangarajan ji, and of our Chief Guest, Professor T. G. Sitharam ji, and all of you. I wish to highlight the stellar, exceptional contributions of these two great citizens of our nation.

About the Chancellor

Dr. Rangarajan, the Chancellor of our University, is a leading economist who has played a key role both as an academician and as a policy maker in India. Currently, he is the Chairman, Madras School of Economics; and President of the C. R. Rao Advanced Institute for Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science at Hyderabad. Previously, Dr. Rangarajan held several important positions including those as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India; Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister; Member, Planning Commission, and also Chairman of the Twelfth Finance Commission. He was also the Governor of the then united Andhra Pradesh, of Odisha, and of Tamil Nadu, and was a member of the Rajya Sabha.

Dr. Rangarajan was the President of the Indian Economic Association in 1988 and was again honored as the President during 2017, the centenary year of the Association. He was also the President of the Indian Econometric Society in 1994. He is the only economist in the country with these three distinctions.

Dr. Rangarajan has received several prestigious awards. Notable among them are the Honorary Fellow of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, the Wharton India Economic Forum's Alumni Award for Outstanding Leadership, and the Finance Man of the Decade conferred by the Bombay Management Association. In recognition of his distinguished services to the country, the President of India honored him in 2002 with the Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian award.

On June 29, 2020, in recognition of the numerous distinguished and outstanding contributions he has made to the Indian Statistical System, Dr. Rangarajan received the Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis National Award in official statistics, for his lifetime achievements. In August 2021, Dr. Rangarajan was nominated for the Professor C. R. Rao Centenary Gold Medal, along with Professor Jagdish Bhagwati of Columbia University, for lifetime contributions to the fields of theoretical and applied aspects of quantitative economics and official statistics.

In August 2022, Dr. Rangarajan authored his memoirs, "Forks in the Road: My days at RBI and Beyond", which was published by Penguin. He has described India's economic landscape, which changed completely during his career spanning 32 years (1982-2014) in the government.

About the Chief Guest

Prof. (Dr.) T. G. Sitharam took over as Chairman, All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), Govt. of India on December 21, 2022 and has served the office with inimitable distinction. He is a Senior Professor and a Member of the Council of the Indian Institute of Science at Bengaluru. Earlier, he was the Director of the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, Assam from 2019 to 2022. He served as the Chairman, Board of Governors of IIT Guwahati and Central Institute of Technology at Kokrajhar, and Chairman, Board of Management of North-East Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST), Arunachal Pradesh. Prof. Sitharam obtained his B.E. (Civil Engineering) from the University of Mysore, Master's from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Ph.D. from University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. He worked as a lecturer at University of Waterloo soon after his PhD and later moved to University of Texas at Austin, USA as a research scientist. Prof. Sitharam also held the position of Director (additional charge) at Central Institute of Technology Kokrajhar, Assam for one and half years. He was the KSIIDC Chair Professor in the area of Energy and Mechanical Sciences at IISc Bangalore. He has served as a visiting or honorary professor at many universities in countries such as Japan, Canada, USA, Hong Kong, Australia and Republic of China. He served as a Member of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) of the Department of Science and Technology, and of the Governing Council of the National Council for Science Museums. He was the

Chairman of the Executive Council of the Visvesvaraya Industrial & Technological Museum, Bangalore, and the Research Council of the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee.

In a career spanning well over three and half decades, Professor Sitharam's research contributions in Geotechnical and Infrastructure Engineering, and Soil Dynamics have led him to be recognized among the world's top 2% Scientists by Stanford University in terms of citations. His knowledge and expertise have benefited several hundreds of students including Research Scholars who received his guidance, and PG and UG students whom he taught, and thousands of industry professionals and teachers whom he trained.

Prof. Sitharam is a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE). He is the Fellow of American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Fellow of Institution of Civil Engineering (United Kingdom), Diplomat of Geotechnical Engineering (D.Ge.) from Academy of Geo-Professionals, ASCE; Honorary Fellow of Indian Geotechnical Society, Fellow of Indian Society of Earthquake Technology, Fellow of ISES and many other Societies. He is also a certified professional engineer and chartered engineer from Institution of Engineers, India. He was the recipient of Sir C.V. Raman State Award for Young Scientists, Government of Karnataka, in the year 2002 in recognition and appreciation of exceptional contributions to Engineering Sciences. He received the IGS Kuckleman Award in 2015, and the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Senior Scientist State Award in 2023 for his lifetime contributions.

At the outset, we are delighted to share with all of you that our institution was bestowed with and enjoyed the unique honour of conducting the prestigious **Association of Indian Universities' 98th Annual Conference of Vice Chancellors**. Well over two hundred VCs from various institutions across our country actively participated in the Annual event. They unanimously commended our institution for organizing the Conference in an exemplary manner and setting a very high standard in terms of all aspects of the organization quality ranging from the welcome into the city through the Conference sessions and proceedings, to the send-offs after the concluding session, and finally to the contacts and friendships they established anew. They were fulsome in their praise of the fine attention to detail demonstrated by the organizing team coordinated by Professor Madhavi and supported by Colonel Vishwanath (retired), our Director (Administration), and his team.

Now, please let me share a few words with our graduands who are about to receive their degrees.

Today, we celebrate a milestone that marks the completion of a few years of hard work and dedication. The successful completion of your degree is only

one chapter of your story, and we at the ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education look forward to witnessing your future success.

In all, 2515 graduands will be graduating and receiving their well-earned degrees today.

PROGRAM	GRADUANDS
MBA	1070
BBA	771
BTech	219
BBA-LLB	178
BA-LLB	99
Online MBA	71
BA (Econ)	31
BArch	18
BSc	13
Exec.MBA	12
Distance MBA	9
Cert. Course – FOL	7
PhD IBS	5
LLM	4
PhD ICFAI Tech	4
PhD ICFAI Law	4
Grand Total	2515

I would have loved to read out the name of every student, but that would take several hours. However, you will find your names displayed on the screens.

I. Medals, Prizes, and Awards

There are 43 awards instituted for students and faculty. Of these, five are best teacher awards, 25 are academic excellence awards for students and 13 are all-round excellence awards for students. All these awards will be presented shortly by our Chief Guest and our University's Chancellor.

As you graduate, you join our University's alumni community numbering over 20,000 and spread all over India and the world. Each of you will and should play a role in shaping India and our world for your fellow graduates, your families, and your communities.

Now, I wish to share some information about noteworthy achievements of our University and our constituent units during the last academic year 2023-2024. The contents are not, and perhaps cannot, be exhaustive. However, they are certainly indicative. Let me begin with our University's adoption and internalization of the National Education Policy.

2. Adoption and Internalization of the National Education Policy by ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education

I am glad to share with you all that we have followed and complied with several initiatives promoted by the UGC following the implementation of the New Education Policy. These include:

1. launching of four-year UG programs leading to the BBA, BA, BCom, and BSc degrees in two tracks – Honours and Honours with Research.
2. registration with the Academic Bank of Credits,
3. incorporating multiple entry and exit systems in our educational programs,
4. infusing a multidisciplinary character into our University,
5. consolidating our online and distance education programs via digitalization,
6. encouraging our students to take courses via SWAYAM and MOOCs,
7. continuing with and expanding internship schemes for our students,
8. consolidating academic and institutional collaboration with reputed foreign institutions, and even initiating newer arrangements.

Also, we have

9. a flourishing office of Dean for International Collaborations and Accreditations,
10. enriched the initiatives and efforts of the Alumni Relations function,
11. promoted our efforts to gain sponsored research projects from various national and international funding bodies,
12. launched two new four-year BBA programs – one in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, and the other in Cloud Computing and Cyber Security,
13. employed Professors of Practice,
14. transformed our UG programs on the basis of the UGC's new curriculum and credit framework, including offering courses under the Multi-disciplinary, Ability Enhancement, Skill Enhancement, and Value-added categories,
15. launched a new doctoral research program in Development Studies and Public Policy and strengthened our doctoral research programs end-to-end,
16. fine-tuned our gender sensitization programs and the corresponding grievance redressal systems.

Notably, we have

17. increased our footprint in the contexts of community engagement and are working on sustainability-focused internships even from the first year of our UG programs,
18. worked on our facilities for all-round development and welfare of our students, these include the construction of two new large Hostels in our campus, and an extension of Mess 2,

- 19.promoted the merits of Indian Knowledge Systems, and emphasized the holistic aspects and richness of our Heritage and Culture, particularly those concerning values and ethics,
- 20.begun our efforts to empanel experts in crafts and arts to teach our students so they may expand their minds, perspectives, and finer sense of appreciation of human life and living,
- 21.aligned with the principles and practices reflected in the UTSAH portal, and
- 22.identified and supported students to participate in the NEP SAARTHI initiative.

3. NEP 2020 Implementation Committee

Our University promptly constituted an NEP implementation committee in 2020 comprising Directors, Deans and external members. Subsequently, our University has introduced the following four-year UG programs (except the BCA, which continues to be a three-year UG program) in conformity with UGC's and AICTE's guidelines.:

1. BA (Honours) and BA (Honours with Research) in Economics,
2. BBA (Honours) and BBA (Honours with Research),
3. BBA (Honours) and BBA (Honours with Research) in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning,
4. BBA (Honours) and BBA (Honours with Research) in Cloud Computing and Cyber Security,
5. Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) – includes key aspects of NEP 2020,
6. BCom (Honours) and BCom (Honours with Research),
7. BSc (Honours) and BSc (Honours with Research) in Computer Science,
8. BSc (Honours) and BSc (Honours with Research) in Data Analytics,
9. BSc (Honours) and BSc (Honours with Research) in Mathematics,
10. BSc (Honours) and BSc (Honours with Research) in Physics,
11. BSc (Honours) and BSc (Honours with Research) in Psychology.

All the above programs incorporate the key features of the NEP 2020 in terms of the mix of courses in terms of their categorization as per the UGC's Undergraduate Curriculum and Credit Framework.

Last year, a couple of dedicated meetings were held to review the University's work in this context, and this has been followed by a University-wide Workshop earlier this week to create shared clarity among all internal stakeholders about the status and progress of implementation of NEP 2020 – a strong and firm step towards our national vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. Importantly, the spirit of the NEP 2020 has been infused into the UG programs and courses in Science,

Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Architecture, and Law offered by our University. Our University's focus on internationalization has led us to formalize institutional partnership arrangements with reputed institutions in the USA, Europe, and South America.

4. Accreditations, Ratings and Rankings, and UGC / AICTE approvals

Our University has earned the prestigious AACSB, SAQS, and NAAC accreditations, and has been rated and ranked highly by national and international agencies befitting our high value as an institution of higher learning in and for our nation. Additionally, now our University is also an Affiliate Member of the globally valued European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) and has joined the United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Education (UNPRME) as a signatory member.

4.1 Accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)

ICFAI Business School (IBS) received the coveted international accreditation from the AACSB (USA), and joined the exclusive league of the top 5% business schools all over the world having this distinction. This achievement has made IBS a proud member of a select community of 950 business schools across 59 countries and territories who have received the AACSB accreditation, which in our case is applicable to the BBA, MBA and PhD programs, and is valid up to February 2025. IBS is placing intense efforts to secure re-accreditation by the Peer Review Team (PRT) of AACSB next year. These efforts include a prior visit of and focused interactions with the PRT's Chairperson a couple of months from now.

Inspired by IBS's AACSB accreditation, ICFAI Tech, our University's constituent unit concerned with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, will work to secure the prestigious international accreditation of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) for its programs in Computer Science and Engineering.

4.2 SAQS Accreditation

IBS has also received the prestigious SAQS Accreditation by the Association of Management Development Institutions of South Asia (AMDISA). We are one of the first three Business Schools in South Asia to receive the SAQS Accreditation in 2009. The accreditation is valid up to August 2025.

4.3 NAAC Accreditation

For its 3rd cycle of NAAC accreditation, on September 13, 2022, our University

received an A++ Grade with a score of 3.59 out of 4.00. The accreditation is valid till September 13, 2027. This was followed by our University being awarded the Category I status last year, allowing us useful degrees of institutional autonomy and academic freedom.

4.4 I2-B Status

Our University continues to hold the I2-B Status granted to Deemed-to-be-Universities by the UGC in its 547th EC meeting held on May 29, 2020.

4.5 CRISIL Ratings

On 28 March, 2024, the MBA Program of the IBS received the top Grading of A*** from CRISIL, both at the National and State-Levels. The Grading is valid up to 29 March, 2025.

4.6 University Rankings 2023-24 (including IBS, ICFAI Tech, and ICFAI Law School)

- Among India's Best Private Multidisciplinary Deemed Universities, our University was ranked 4th by Education World, 9th by The Week-Hansa, and 12th by India Today. It stands at No.1 in the State of Telangana.
- Among all Universities – Government and Private – we stand ranked 36th by The Week-Hansa, and 35th by India Today.
- Our University was ranked 94th among the top 100 universities in India by the Global University Rankings, London.

ICFAI Business School (IBS)

- IBS's MBA program was ranked a creditable 40th in the NIRF Rankings of 2023. Being rated within the top 50 among a few thousand B-Schools – public as well as private – in our nation is indeed laudable. The NIRF Rankings for 2024 are awaited.
- In their latest rankings (2023-2024) of the top private B-Schools in India, IBS's MBA program was ranked 3rd by Times Now, 10th by Careers 360, 9th by Business World and by Business India, and 23rd by Business Today. In the overall all-India B-School rankings, IBS has been placed 7th by Education World, and by Times Now, 19th by Business World, and 23rd by Business India.
- The IBS's BBA Program was ranked 10th by Outlook-ICARE Rankings 2023 among those offered by India's Top 130 BBA Institutes.
- The Online MBA program has been ranked No.1 MBA program in India by Careers 360.

- The Bangalore off-campus center has been placed 4th in the Diamond Band of the Outcome-Based Education Rankings of the R.World Institutional Rankings 2024.

ICFAI Tech (Faculty of Science and Technology)

- This year, ICFAI Tech has secured high ratings and ranks given by different agencies including Careers 360 (AAA+), GHRDC (No.5 in the ‘Eminence’ category, No.3 in Telangana and No.8 in the Southern Region ‘Overall’), IIRF (No.1 among Engineering Institutions in Hyderabad), and India Today (No.7 among Private Emerging Engineering Colleges). ICFAI Tech has grown strongly since its inception and we look forward to conceiving and launching unique, high-value educational programs in the times ahead.

ICFAI Law School (Faculty of Law)

The ICFAI Law School has been ranked No.1 among “Top Law Schools Leading Super Excellence” in India and in Telangana by GHRDC 2024. It has been ranked No.1 among “Top Leading Law Schools of Super Excellence” by Competition Success Review, 2024, and No.1 in Telangana State and No.3 among the Top Leading Law Schools in India Rank by IIRF Ranking, 2024.

4.7 Quality Certifications

Our University received the ISO 14001:2015 certificate and the ISO 9001:2015 certificate for its Quality Management Systems and Environmental Management Systems respectively. These certificates are valid up to November 2024.

4.8 Program Approvals 2024-25

Our University received AICTE's extension of approval for 2024-25 at both the Hyderabad and Bangalore off-campus center for conducting in-campus MBA and BBA programs in Management, and for offering in the Hyderabad campus BCA and B.Tech. programs in Computer Science and Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, and Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, and M.Tech programs in Computer Science and Engineering – Artificial Engineering and Machine Learning, Robotics and Automation, and Digital Electronics and Communications Systems). We have also received letters of approval from the Bar Council of India for conducting a BA Journalism-LLB (Honors) program at Hyderabad and at our off-campus center at Bengaluru, where a BA-LLB is also offered. I wish to inform the distinguished members that the main campus in Hyderabad offers regular five-year integrated programs, BBA-LLB (Honors) and BA-LLB (Honors) and a one-year LLM, apart from the Ph.D. The five-year B.Arch program of IFHE has received an extension of approval from the Council of Architecture.

5. Constituent Units

IFHE comprises five constituent units, namely IBS – the Business School, ICFAI Tech – the STEM School, ICFAI Law School, ISArch – the Architecture School and ISoSS – the School of Social Sciences, which was established only last year and has already grown strong wings. The work and accomplishments of the faculty members of each of these constituent units is presented below briefly.

5.1 ICFAI Business School (IBS)

IBS commenced two new four-year UG programs leading to Honours and Honours with Research degrees – one in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, and the other in Cloud Computing and Cyber Security. Now, IBS is fully aligned with the National Education Policy and UGC's Guidelines thereof. In order to ride the crest of the Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence waves sweeping across the world, IBS offers specialized modules or full courses in these two subjects.

In IBS, 880 (eight hundred and eighty) MBA students were placed out of the 1030 (one thousand and thirty) who opted for placements. The recruitments were done by 180 (one hundred and eighty) companies from various sectors of industry, with 68 of them being first time recruiters. Our BBA students mostly opted to pursue higher studies or work for their family business.

IBS has enabled IFHE to initiate partnerships with well-established Institutions across the continents. This move is expected to significantly and positively influence our University's doctoral research programs and a few other few high-priority activities.

Off-Campus Centre at Bengaluru

Our University's off-campus center, which commenced operations in 2021, is growing strongly and offers BBA, MBA, BBA-LLB, and BA Journalism-LLB programs. These programs have been duly approved by the respective competent Central bodies.

5.2 ICFAI Tech

In ICFAI Tech, of the 219 (two hundred and nineteen) graduands, 105 (one hundred and five) have opted for placements of which 80 (eighty) are placed. The others have opted for higher education.

ICFAI Tech has witnessed rapid growth in the student intake, which increased from 744 in the AY 2022-23 to 1033 in 2023-24. 14 (fourteen) students were offered admission to the Ph.D., program last academic year. Four students will receive their Doctoral Degrees today.

ICFAI Tech introduced the BCA program last year.

ICFAI Tech has actively implemented the New Education Policy (NEP) in its four-year B.Sc. (Honours) and B.Sc.(Honours with Research) programs. In line with NEP 2020, ABC (Academic Bank of Credits) has been introduced To facilitate the transfer and redemption of academic credits earned by students, ICFAI Tech introduced the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and is in the process of implementing the same for all programs henceforth.

Three state-of-the-art laboratories, namely Lab for Advanced Nano Fabrication and Characterization (LANFAC), Lab for Adaptive Resonance Theory (LART) and a Lab for Robotics and Intelligent Manufacturing Systems (L_RIMS) are being established to enhance the research potential of faculty and students.

Dr. Shyamala Reuben presented a paper and was awarded the “KINGS AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE” from the Oxford Awards Club-LISD in London, UK, for her Psychology and Community Development work.

In 2023-2024, a total of 57 companies visited the campus and offered internships, with the highest stipend being ₹32,500 and an average stipend of ₹10,525. Additionally, 72% of students received stipends from 49 different companies.

In ICFAI Tech, out of 219 graduates this year, 105 opted for placements. Among them, 100 students successfully secured positions in various esteemed organizations. The remaining graduates have chosen to pursue higher education, reflecting their aspiration for continuous learning.

This year, 99% of the students who registered for NASSCOM's Future Skills Platform achieved top-level Gold Certifications.

Three ICFAI Tech third-year students participated in “A Study on International E-Community Engagement Exploring College and Career Pathways.” This initiative involved 25 students and five faculty members from five different Universities across India, Morocco, South Africa, The United States of America, and Iraq.

Beyond academics, ICFAI Tech students have excelled in Kabaddi and Volleyball by showcasing their talent, determination, and sportsmanship and emerging as winners in national-level sports competitions held at BITS Pilani (Hyderabad campus) and Symbiosis University.

The students also made a social impact by donating blood and bagging the Highest Blood Donor Motivator Award in 2024 on World Blood Donor Day.

5.3 ICFAI Law School

In the Faculty of Law, out of 227 students who passed out, 34 students have secured career placements. 15 students opted for higher education in India and abroad and the rest have joined private legal practitioners.

Professor Narayana Rao Battu served as an Additional Secretary in the Law Ministry and was also appointed as a Whole-Time Member (Law) in the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRA).

Professor Arun Kumar was appointed as an Editorial Board Member of Social Sciences & Humanities (Open) journal published by Elsevier and also appointed as a Social Scientist by ICSSR.

Professor Mohammed Akbar Khan was appointed as a Life Member of the National Education Society, Kalaburagi.

5.4 ICFAI School of Architecture (ISArch)

ICFAI School of Architecture (ISArch) was established in 2018 and offers a B.Arch program approved by the Council of Architecture. It has highly qualified and experienced faculty of National and International repute. It is at the forefront of implementing the NEP 2020 in spirit by encouraging flexible learning options and enabling interdisciplinary courses through MOOCs and SWAYAM platforms. These are an integral part of the program-curriculum, which emphasizes skill development for broadening the career horizons, development of critical thinking capabilities, and interpersonal and communication skills with a focus on emerging technologies. The students have successfully completed more than 80 (eighty) online courses. Besides, ISArch engaged a highly accomplished professional architect as a “Professor of Practice” even prior to the NEP in the form of a Chair Professor of Design.

ISArch has entered into MoUs with prestigious international institutions including the POLITECNICO DE MILANO, University of ITALY, which enjoys a QS University Ranking of 10 in the world, and the internationally reputed BOSTON ARCHITECTURAL COLLEGE with which we are actively working to implement a Twinning Degree Program.

It has also entered into MoUs with ASSOCHAM’s Green and Eco-friendly Movement and the US-based Green Business Certificate Institute to promote Industry-Academia Collaboration, besides regularly organizing Building Technology Seminars from leading Industrial firms.

5.5 ICFAI School of Social Sciences (ISoSS)

ISoSS was established on 23rd March, 2023 and was inaugurated by Dr C Rangarajan, Chancellor of our University. The School has been carved out from the IBS, and has 19 faculty members. They presently offer the BA (Hons.), BA (Hons. With Research), BCom (Honours), BCom (Honours with Research), MA, and PhD degree programs in Economics. The School also offers basic courses to more than 5000 students of the BBA and MBA programs. A UG program in Psychology is set to commence from this academic year. The School plans to

conceive newer UG and PG Social Science programs. Beginning with this year, a new PhD program in Development Studies and Public Policy is to be offered to leverage the knowledge, experiences, and thirst for knowledge discovery among senior officers in government, public sector, and other interested organizations.

6. Open, Distance Learning and Online Programs

The Open, Distance, and Online Education programs of IBS are growing strongly consequent to their high quality, and the solid support given to the students. These have gained formal approvals from the UGC and the AICTE. The total student strength is 1800. The second batch of 80 students are graduating today.

7. Academic Research and Sponsored Research / Consulting Projects

The faculty members of all constituent units have a creditable record of academic research work and accomplishments. In all, they have published nearly 250 (two hundred and fifty) papers in reputed, indexed and refereed journals, and participated and presented papers in nearly 100 (one hundred) Conferences. The University has also organized over 20 (twenty) in campus international and national Conferences.

ICFAI Business School (IBS)

The faculty members have published 88 (eighty-eight) papers in top-rated journals, of which 42 (forty-two) were published in Scopus Quartile 1 and Quartile 2 journals, 42 papers were published in ABDC A*/A/B category journals, besides 5 (five) book chapters, Lecture Notes and conference proceedings were also indexed by Scopus.

The faculty members of the Finance and Accounting academic discipline successfully completed a high value consulting assignment given by the MCX (Multi Commodity Exchange) to work on “Hedging of Risks in Base Metals”.

IBS has established a state-of-the-art Bloomberg Lab with 12 sophisticated terminals, delivering real-time financial news, historical data, and trading insights. This advanced facility empowers students and faculty to conduct primary data-driven research.

ICFAI Tech

The faculty members and research scholars of ICFAI Tech published 125 (one hundred and twenty-five) papers in reputed journals, 50 (fifty) of which belong to the SCIMAGO Q1 category), and 70 (seventy) in conference proceedings indexed by Scopus and Web of Science.

Professor V. Srilalitha received an INSPIRE grant worth ₹14 lakhs from the Department of Science and Technology.

Professor K.L.Narayana, the Director, received the ATAL Faculty Development Program grant worth ₹3.5 lakhs from the AICTE. This was used to conduct a program on Metal Additive Manufacturing.

On the Sponsored Research Project front, ICFAI Tech faculty members have submitted a large volume of proposals to various national-level funding agencies including AICTE, DST, MNRE, DSIR, SERB, ISRO, ICSSR, MWCD, and DRDO. Some of these proposals are in an advanced stage of evaluation and are expected to be approved soon.

A proposal for establishing an IDEA Lab worth ₹1.10 crore is awaiting approval from the All India Council for Technical Education.

ICFAI Tech was granted 11 patents, while 8 were published. One of the patents granted to Professor Manmadhachari for 3D printing of the human lower jaw is commercialized by the Doctors of the Indian Armed Forces.

Environment and Non-renewable energy

The faculty members are experimenting with Hydrogen production by different techniques for contributing our nation's renewable energy and non-conventional energy sources.

Global warming and Carbon footprint

Research groups are working towards CO₂ absorption, Green Synthesis, Bio Polymers and Energy storage materials in the context of sustainable environment and living.

Space Research

The faculty have submitted proposals to the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) under their RESPOND Program, Capacity Building Program Office (CBPO), ISRO Young Scientist Program (YUVIKA) and Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) Development Program. Under ISRO's guidance, our students are being trained in Space Science and technology via the ISRO-START Program, of which ICFAI Tech is a Nodal Centre that has successfully completed two ISRO-START sessions on 'Overview of Space Science and Technology' and 'Exploration of the Solar System'.

Viksit Bharat@2047

Under the Training and Capacity Building scheme of VB@2047 proposals worth ₹1.5 crores have been submitted.

Women and Research and Women Empowerment

The women faculty members of ICFAI Tech are deeply involved in research activities and are encouraged to gain women empowerment. To empower women in Telangana, proposals have been submitted to the DST-women Technology Park and MWCD-Gender Budgeting Schemes.

Ms.Nidhi Iyer, a student, participated in a Bootcamp for women engineers. This is a 2-year gender inclusion program offered by M/s Talent Sprint and supported by Google.

Consultancy Projects

ICFAI Tech generated useful revenues via consultancy projects and looks forward to exponentially increase the outcomes in due course.

AICTE-QIP Program

ICFAI Tech faculty members are selected for AICTE- QIP program. 9 (nine) faculty members have been sponsored by AICTE and 4 (four) faculty members were selected under the Self-sponsored scheme. The faculty members are participating in programs offered at IISC, C-DAC, IITs and IIITs.

Conferences, Workshops, FDPs and Seminars conducted

ICFAI Tech conducted one National conference, 4 Workshops, 3 FDPs, and 23 Seminars. The faculty members were invited to serve as session Chairpersons in 6 (six) different sessions at various international conferences.

To support the cause of societal extension and outreach ICFAI Tech conducts a Summer Camp for High school students to improve their mathematical skills.

ICFAI Law School

Four research scholars will receive their Ph.D. degrees in this Convocation.

The faculty members published 14 (fourteen) papers in top-rated journals, 4 (four) authored and 10 (ten) edited books. The Centers for Excellence at ICFAI Law School, Hyderabad have organized four conferences (2 international and 2 national conferences).

They successfully completed a sponsored research project with financial support of ₹12,00,000 (Rupees Twelve Lakhs only) and prepared Guidelines under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for “Diversion of Privately-owned Forests for Non-Forestry Use” sponsored by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), New Delhi undertaken over one year from December 2022 to November 2023.

ICFAI Law School has organized:

1. a three-day Workshop for Indian Forest Service Officers on the topic “Safe Workplaces – Fundamental Understanding of POSH Act, Gender Sensitization, Legal Framework, Policies and Processes” from 6th to 8th May 2024 at Gangtok;
2. a one-week Refresher Training Course for Indian Forest Service Officers on the topic “Intellectual Property Rights, Certification and WTO Accountability: Scope of Patentability” during 18th to 22nd December 2023; and
3. a two-week faculty development program for all the law schools of the ICFAI Group from 1st to 12th July, 2024.

The Legal Aid Clinic of ICFAI Law School organized several legal awareness and literacy programs in nearby villages.

ICFAI Law School offered consulting services through the comprehensive training program “Intellectual Property Rights and WTO Accountability” mentioned above and tailor-made for Senior IFS Officers. The faculty also offered specialized training sponsored by the Ministry of Environment on the topic of “Policy and Legal Issues in Environment and Forests”. The Law School has actively engaged with the Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education to formulate guidelines in adherence with the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.

ICFAI School of Social Sciences (ISoSS)

Six sponsored research projects were awarded to the faculty members of ICFAI School of Social Sciences; two projects were sponsored by Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and the other four were sponsored by the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR). These were related to:

1. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) and its Effectiveness among Tribal Rural Women, sponsored by ICSSR;
2. Measuring Digital Capability among Rural Women, sponsored by ICSSR;
3. Menstrual Hygiene Management Practices and Associated Factors among Primary School Tribal Adolescent Girls in Odisha, sponsored by ICSSR;
4. GeoEconomic Dynamics: Assessing the Impact of Trade Tensions and Economic Coercion on Sustainable Development Goals, sponsored by Asian Development Bank Institute
5. Economic Impact of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) on Reducing Income Inequality, sponsored by ICSSR; and
6. Study of Pani Panchayats’ influence on cropping in Odisha, sponsored by the International Rice Research Institute.

Faculty members published their research output in high-quality journals

indexed in Scopus, A, and B category journals of repute. They also published books, book chapters, and wrote articles in popular media. The focus area of research of the faculty members was inclusive growth, sustainable development, women's development, and evaluation of government welfare policies and programs.

ISOSS organized two important conferences namely the 16th Doctoral Thesis Conference in collaboration with IGIDR, Mumbai, and 7th International Conference on Applied Econometrics in collaboration with The Indian Econometric Society.

Prof S Mahendra Dev, Distinguished Professor, was the President of the 22nd Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Social Science Institutions (IASSI) held at Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad, 2nd to 4th, November 2023, and the 58th Annual Conference of the Indian Econometric Society (TIES) held in Tripura University, Agartala. He delivered the presidential address at both conferences.

He has been reappointed as the Chief Editor of the globally reputable journal Economic and Political Weekly for two more years.

8. Case Research Center

Set up in the year 2000, the IBS Case Research Center (IBS-CRC) is now ranked World No.3 by The Case Center, London, in terms of the number of cases developed, and World No.2 in terms of adoption of those cases by business schools across the world. This is only a sliver behind the globally revered Harvard Business School. As of July 2024, IBS-CRC has developed more than 7,200 cases and has won 171 national and international awards and prizes. Seven of its authors were in The Case Centre's Top 50 Bestselling Case Authors' List for 2022-23, and three figured in the Top 10 bestselling authors in the world. This is a singular achievement, unparalleled by any Indian University or Institution functioning in the world of higher education. The IBS-CRC's cases are used by more than 900 B-schools from over 90 countries. INSEAD (France), London Business School, London School of Economics, Oxford University's Said B-School, HEC Paris and Montreal, Singapore Management University, IE Business School (Spain), etc., are among the leading business schools that use the IBS-CRC's cases. Till 2024, 313 case studies have been published in leading international textbooks.

Keeping in mind the impact of AI and other emerging technologies on student learning experiences and delivery of higher education, the IBS-CRC has plans to integrate AI and gamification in its case studies. Another area the IBS-CRC intends to focus on is developing case studies on Indian Knowledge Systems. These can enable effective dissemination of the rich heritage and traditional

knowledge that India has in multiple fields including business management and public policy.

9. The IFHE Seed Money Grant Program (SMGP)

The IFHE SMGP, established in 2015, has been instrumental in fostering research and innovation among faculty members. By providing seed funding, the program encourages creativity, analytical skills, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Its impact on IFHE's research ecosystem is substantial, as it has sparked new research initiatives, nurtured intellectual exploration, and facilitated high-quality research outputs. Moreover, the program has laid the groundwork for larger projects and promoted interdisciplinary cooperation. In the past year, the program approved 18 proposals, allocating a total grant of ₹34.91 lakhs. Since its inception, the Grant Program has sanctioned 131 projects across eleven rounds of Seed Money Project (SMP) calls, from January 2015 to January 2024. The average number of projects approved per round is 12, with an average funding of ₹1.88 lakhs per project, resulting in a cumulative grant of ₹2.45 crores.

10. Centers of Excellence

Our University has the following Centers for Excellence (in alphabetical order):

1. Case Research Centre.
2. Centre for Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing and Robotics.
3. Centre for Excellence in Banking and Finance.
4. Centre for Excellence in BlockChain Technologies.
5. Centre for Excellence in Corporate and Commercial Laws.
6. Centre for Excellence in Criminal Law.
7. Centre for Excellence in Cyber Law and Data Protection.
8. Centre for Excellence in Digital Transformation.
9. Centre for Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion (@ Bengaluru campus).
10. Centre for Excellence in Environment and Forest Laws.
11. Centre for Excellence in Gender Studies.
12. Centre for Excellence in Intellectual Property Rights.
13. Centre for Excellence in Leadership.
14. Centre for Excellence in Sustainability (@ Bengaluru campus).
15. Centre for Excellence in Women Development.
16. Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (BIZLEX).

These Centers were established with the vision of emerging as high value centers for policy research to address societal challenges and benefit the nation at large. Each Center consists of faculty members from different constituent

units of our University and external advisors. Recently, we established a Center for Excellence in Leadership and its work is set to commence shortly.

I I. Management Development Programs (MDPs)

The academic year 2023-24 has been more productive in terms of adding new and reputable client-companies into IBS's portfolio in addition to consolidating by responding effectively to requests by DRDO, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Indian Oil Corporation, India Post, Aurobindo Pharma, etc., for repeat programs. With the advent of Aurobindo Pharma last year, the Pharmaceuticals Industry is added into the Business Domains we serve. We are delighted to have conducted a total of 7 (seven) programs repeatedly for their mid-level and senior managers. The Coromandel Group is another new client in the portfolio. A total of 2145 participant man-days was accomplished, and this is twenty percent more than what was achieved last year. In the years to come, we expect to grow exponentially in this value stream of our University, especially given the rapidly spreading reputation of the IBS faculty, whose training inputs are being valued at the highest levels in top organizations of our nation.

New companies/institutions added to IBS's MDPs portfolio:

- Aurobindo Pharma Ltd
- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd
- Bharat Electronics Ltd
- Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie
- National Institute of Medium, Small, Micro Enterprises (NIMSME)
- Saras Analytics
- Sadguru Management Consultants
- Aditya Global Business School
- Maruti Suzuki India Limited
- Hyundai Motor India Limited

Repeat clients:

- Aurobindo Pharma (15 programs) done in the last 2 years
- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (2 programs in a year)
- DRDO: (6 Programs done in one year, 2022-23)
- India Post (one program every year)
- ITC (3 programs)
- Bharat Dynamics Ltd.

Our University is now officially empanelled with Indian Oil Corporation for E-bidding of MDPs for programs worth ₹1 Crore for their entire organizational system in South India for a 3-year period. This has been secured by a competitive e-bidding process that included big players like the IITs, and IIMs.

Big companies under negotiation for experiencing our MDPs during 2024-25 are:

- NHPC Limited
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- Rail India Technical and Economic Service Limited
- Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited
- Shipping Corporation of India
- Bharat Dynamics Limited

I2.The Institution Innovation Council (IIC) of IFHE

The Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) and its associated bodies have made remarkable progress in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. We are proud to share that all activities mandated by the Ministry of Education under the MIC site were successfully conducted at IFHE.

The IIC acts as a feeder for the ICFAI Incubator by encouraging students and faculty to associate with creating and mentoring startup ventures. We are happy to share that we have completed three successful editions of the Anvikshana programs, focused on pre-incubation, with the fourth edition currently underway. These programs have been instrumental in creating a robust pipeline for our incubation initiatives.

We are delighted to report a series of university-level hackathons and business plan competitions supported by the ICFAI Incubator, aimed at nurturing students; engagement in innovation and entrepreneurship. Presently, the IIC and ICFAI Incubator are actively supporting 16 ideas, including 5 alumni startups, guiding them towards realizing their innovative business ideas and ventures. We are also happy to share that one of our alumni led startup has successfully gone to market and more are scheduled to follow this year. This year promises continued growth and achievement for our entrepreneurial ecosystem, with more successes on the horizon.

The 2024-25 year promises continued growth and achievements for our entrepreneurial ecosystem, with more successes on the horizon.

I3. ICFAI Staff College

The ICFAI Staff College has contributed to capacity building throughout the year through periodic value-driven faculty development programs and staff development programs. The Staff College conducted 105 programs with 6,122 participants during the year. There was an average of 58 participants per program.

Among the most prominent of these programs is a 5-day FDP for faculty members aimed at enhancing their teaching abilities and bringing them up-to-date with the latest developments in their respective fields. Some of the sessions

in these programs were led by eminent professors from foreign universities. Critical thinking essentials, story-telling as pedagogy, systems thinking, advanced manufacturing, blockchain and its applications, business modelling and simulations, positive psychology, writing winning research proposals for external research funding, multidisciplinary research - setting the agenda for the future, etc. are among the important topics covered in the faculty development programs.

We conducted sessions on the implementation of National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) regarding the design and implementation of 4-year Undergraduate Programs, multidisciplinary University, and internationalization, among other topics.

Experts from international organizations delivered sessions on “Write with Purpose, Publish for Impact” and “Best Practices for Integrated and Abstracted Publications” to promote the quality of publications.

The ICFAI Staff College continues in its efforts to promote quality teaching-learning methods by conceptualizing and implementing value-driven skill development and knowledge enhancement programs.

I4. Special Lectures

The 12th N J Yasaswy Memorial Annual Lecture was delivered on 22nd November 2023 by Professor Janat Shah, Former Director of IIM Udaipur. He shared his expert insights on “Improving Performance on Human Development Index: Redesigning Service Delivery Systems”.

I5. Student Activities

Our University has 54 student clubs which provide a platform to the students to continuously hone their leadership, managerial, and technical skills. During the last academic year, these clubs conducted close to a thousand events, both in offline and online mode, and participated in numerous competitions.

Some of the annual events include International Yoga Day, ‘National Youth Day, Teachers’ Day, Engineers’ Day, Swacch Bharat Abhiyan, World Bicycle Day, Vigilance awareness, etc. ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ the 75 years of Independence Day celebrations were conducted with great enthusiasm by our University through several competitions like – essay-writing, painting, dancing, cultural performances etc. ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’ was conducted with great vigor with students from all the states and union territories coming together for a cultural festival. Students also celebrated unique events based on ‘Unity in Diversity’ theme. Performances of all the different cultures were showcased, creating awareness of India’s rich cultural heritage. Other events of National pride included – ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’, ‘Har Ghar Dhyam’ etc.

Our University also conducted various national level events, including Business, Technical, Sports, and Cultural festivals such as:

- ‘Trishna’ for MBA students and ‘Thrithi’ for students of all other programs.
- ‘Entrepreneurship Week’,
- ‘C-Suite – A Boardroom Challenge’,
- ‘Sankriya – Operations Conclave and Fest’,
- ‘PECUNIA – Online Quiz Competition’,
- ‘AAVEG –Inter-college sports fest,
- ‘Corporate Month’,
- ‘Prakaran – article-writing competition’,
- ‘Lex-Knot’, a festival for students of Law,
- ‘Model United Nations’ and
- ‘IMPULSE’.

These events were all conducted in both hybrid and in person modes and witnessed participation of more than five thousand students from more than 500 institutions, including all top B-schools, from across the country. The students of IFHE emerged winners in various managerial, cultural and technical fests conducted by IIM- Bangalore, IIM-Indore, IMT-Hyderabad among others.

IFHE takes pride in the fact that our students participate in various social service activities such as organizing Blood Donation Camps, social awareness camps, waste management, and visits to NGOs, providing legal-aid and legal-awareness to nearby villagers, and conducting leadership training to students in government schools. They have also extensively participated in various awareness campaigns like - Save Energy and Water campaigns, No Child Labour, women empowerment, save environment etc. ‘Anokha Utsav’ is a unique initiative of one of our student club’s, where every month students celebrate their birthdays with different NGOs, thereby spreading happiness and joy, while imbibing social responsibility in return.

Our University also celebrated International Yoga Day, Independence Day, Teachers’ Day, Engineers’ Day, Constitution Day, Swami Vivekananda’s Birth Anniversary as National Youth Day, Republic Day, International Blood Donor’s Day, International Women’s Day and World Entrepreneur’s Day.

ICFAI Law School successfully conducted their annual events - Legathon, Youth Day, Teachers Day, ICON and the prestigious NJ Yasaswy Memorial National Moot Court Competition. The ICFAI Law School’s students participated in several moot court competitions across the country and brought laurels to the University.

The ISoSS celebrated National Unity Day. One of the students was selected for the prestigious “Aspire Leaders Program (ALP)” designed by Harvard Business School professors. As a part of THRITHI 2024, the school conducted various events including Mock Parliament, Mock Budget, Trading Titans, etc. In addition, students emerged winners in various competitions hosted by other institutes.

Beyond the institute-level and School-level events, some of our University’s students have unique, praiseworthy national-level accomplishments by virtue of their abundant demonstrated talent in different co-curricular and extra-curricular contexts including sports, event organization and management, music, dance, and other visual and performing art forms.

16. Financial Position

I am happy to inform you that the financial position of our University continues to be very encouraging. We should always value its vital contribution to our continuing strength and development as an institution of higher learning.

17. To the graduating students

I want you to keep the following few points in mind as you embark on the next stage of your life:

Demonstrating distinctive COMPETENCE is great. However, personal and professional CHARACTER matter infinitely more.

Strongly demonstrate compassion and concern for others, including our natural environment.

Our society and our world need you and your families. You can and should play a crucial role in their transformation and bring laurels to our University.

Work together in an integrated manner to solve the problems. Think realistically and be confident.

Peace with dignity is the highest human value and this should constitute your breath and blood flow.

I wish to place on record my gratitude to the Ministry of Education, the University Grants Commission, the All India Council for Technical Education, the Bar Council of India, and the Council of Architecture for their continued support to our University. I also wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to the members of the Board of Management, Academic Council, Finance Committee, Planning & Monitoring Board, IQAC, the Boards of Studies of various Faculties, and the Operational and Coordination Leadership Team for the tremendous support and cooperation we have received from them.

I would like to make a special mention of the parents of our students and all the graduating students who are participating in this Convocation. We value your presence immensely.

I take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to all the stakeholders of our University – teachers, staff, students, alumni and recruiters – for their unstinted cooperation. I hope in the years to come, their sense of commitment and quality contributions will enable our University to scale new heights of excellence. Thank you for your patient hearing. Now, I request the Chancellor to address the audience.





ICFAI Foundation
for Higher Education
(Deemed-to-be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
Category I Autonomous Institution • Accredited by NAAC with 'A++' Grade