

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

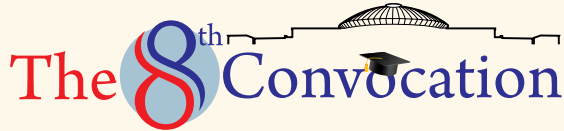
A Report by the Vice Chancellor



Prof. J. Mahender Reddy
Vice Chancellor,
The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education

The **8th** Convocation
2nd August, 2018 at 3.00 pm





A Report by the Vice Chancellor Prof J. Mahender Reddy

I. Respected Chancellor Dr. C Rangarajan; Chief Guest Mr.Vellayan Subbiah – Managing Director, Tube Investments of India Limited, (a part of the prestigious Murugappa Group) Chairperson of The ICFAI Society Mrs. N. Sobharani Yasaswy; Mr.V R Sankara, President, The ICFAI Society; Mr. E N Murthy, Member-Secretary, The ICFAI Society – distinguished members of the Board of Management, 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.

On behalf of The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (IFHE) and on my own behalf, I extend a warm welcome to the Chancellor Dr. C Rangarajan, our distinguished Chief Guest Mr.Vellayan Subbiah and to all of you.

India's higher education system has been making a significant contribution to the economic and social change in the country. The future depends on the system's ability to create and disseminate knowledge and to develop people and institutions to realize the demographic dividend. The health of the universities will determine our success in this regard.

We need innovation and creativity in higher education to meet changing needs and I am happy to note that our University has taken several steps in this direction in an endeavor to achieve quality higher education. Let me first say a few words about our University.

The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education was established in the year 2008 as a Deemed-to-be University under section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, with ICFAI Business School (IBS) Hyderabad as the constituent unit. It now has three faculties consisting of Management (IBS Hyderabad),

Science & Technology, and Law. The University has a faculty strength of 280 and a student strength of about 5800. The students come from all over India and girls form about 40 per cent of the student population. There is no management / NRI quota. All the students are admitted solely based on merit.

The Faculty of Management offers the BBA, MBA, Executive MBA, MMS, and PhD programs and one certificate program. The Faculty of Science & Technology offers the B Tech, B. Arch, M.Tech, and PhD programs. The Faculty of Law offers the five-year BBA-LLB (Hons) and the BA-LLB (Hons) programs, the LLM program, the PhD program and seven certificate programs.

The University is a member of the Association of Indian Universities and a member of the London-based Association of Commonwealth Universities. It has been accredited by NAAC with an 'A+' Grade and a CGPA of 3.43 out of 4.00.

The business school of the University, has received the SAQS accreditation from AMDISA (Association of Management Development Institutions of South Asia). It has made good progress towards accreditation with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), Tampa, Florida, USA. A new mentor, Prof Barry Burgan, Deputy Dean, Bond Business School, Bond University, Australia, was appointed in November 2017. The iSER Update II was submitted to the mentor and the AACSB Committee.

An eight-member UGC Expert Committee headed by Dr. R Venkata Rao, Vice Chancellor, National Law School of India University (NLSIU) Bangalore, and assisted by Prof. B A Prajapati, Vice Chancellor, Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan, Gujarat, the AICTE Nominee, visited the University during January 19-21, 2018. We have received the approval letter which has unanimously recommended continuation of the Deemed-to-be University status.

The UGC granted the autonomous status and graded the Deemed-to-be University as Category II (one of the 60 institutions in the Country).

In the NIRF Ranking 2018, the Faculty of Management was ranked 22. Under the Overall and University Category, we were ranked in the band 101-150 in the country.

ICFAI Founder Shri N J Yasaswy was posthumously awarded “Visionary eduPRENEUR of India 2017” by Rethink India at the fifth National Convention of Eduleaders and Edupreneurs in Higher Education at New Delhi. Mrs. Shobharani Yasaswy, Chairperson, ICFAI Group, received this award from the former President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, on December 11, 2017.

The ICFAI Group won the “World’s Greatest Brands & Leaders 2017-18 Asia GCC Awards” under the category “Iconic University of India”.

2. The quality of the programs

- Socially relevant curriculum including soft skills and focus on development of an entrepreneurial and innovative mindset
- Rigorous student-centric academic delivery with the faculty playing the role of mentor
- Continuous evaluation and feedback
- Focus on research by the faculty
- Internship programs supported by a strong Alumni network

NAAC Sponsored National Seminar

A two-day national seminar on “Enhancement of Quality in Higher Education” was organized during February 27-28, 2018. It was sponsored by NAAC and was attended by 70 participants from different parts of the country including several vice chancellors, directors, deans, and faculty members.

Digitization

The University has facilitated access to “SWAYAM” and “NPTEL” videos for use in the “flip-based” learning model, which enables students to learn and develop their knowledge and skills both inside and outside the classroom at any point of time. This helps in further enhancing the quality of the program.

The University is all set to join the National Academic Depository.

3. Research

During the year 2017-18, our faculty members published 169 papers in professional journals of repute. Of these, 10 were in A, 1 in A*, and 33 in other ABDC journals listed in the Australian Business Deans Council Journal Quality List, 4 in Web of Science, and 85 in Scopus listed journals.

The University hosted six international conferences and two national conferences. In all, 420 papers were presented at these conferences of which 114 were presented by IFHE faculty members and doctoral students. They also presented 226 papers at conferences in India and 6 papers at international conferences held in the US, France, and Thailand.

There were also regular weekly faculty seminars held in every department. In all, 318 faculty seminars have been presented.

The focus of research by the faculty and doctoral students during the year 2017-18 has been:

Economics: Agriculture and Industry, Trade and FDI, India's Economic Growth, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Economies.

Finance: Initial Public Offerings, Stock Market Liquidity and Volatility, Corporate Governance, Algorithmic Trading, Market Microstructure and Issues in Emerging Financial Markets.

HR: Interdisciplinary behavioral research, job re-design & organizational outcomes, employer branding, positive psychology, women entrepreneurship, e-recruitment, job search behavior and sustainable development.

Marketing: Tourism Marketing, Celebrity endorsements, Social Media Marketing, Global Branding, E-retailing, Online Advertising and Technology Adoption.

Operations & IT: Technology Adoption and Management, Reverse Supply Chain, Integer Programming, Cloud Computing, Data Mining, Predictive Analytics and Multi-Criteria Decision-Making.

Soft Skills: Employability Skills, Cross-Cultural Communication, Negotiation Tactics and Communication Strategies.

Science and Technology: Material Science, Composite Materials Characterization of Metal Complexes, Computational and Mathematical Physics, Cloud Computing, Image Processing, Wireless Networking and Communications, Pattern Recognition, Embedded and VLSI Design, Smart Grids, Slope Stability Analysis, Vibrations, Robotics, and Optimization of Manufacturing Processes.

Law: Family Law, Commercial Law, Property Law, and Cyber Law.

4. Research Projects

The faculty members of the University are pursuing 26 research projects funded by the University's Seed Money, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Science Engineering Research Board (SERB) and ICSSR – in the areas of Non-Linear Algebra and Lie Algebroid Approaches to Quantum Field Theories, Numeric Problem on L-Series of Quadratic Field, Aircraft Applications; Modeling, Design & Simulation of Serial & Parallel Robot, Environment, Wireless Sensor Networks, Employment in the Indian Economy, Gender Studies, Retail, Indian Banking Sector, Financial Inclusion, Insurance and Social Media for Heritage Tourism.

5. Case Research Center

- a) The ICFAI Business School 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, The Case Centre, with offices in Cranfield University, UK, and Babson College, Massachusetts, USA. In fact, 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 and 2017, a list dominated by Harvard, INSEAD, and IMD professors.
- b) Thought Leadership Award: In recognition of the exemplary contribution made by the Case Research Center of the University in the area of case method and case teaching, the **“Thought Leadership Award”** was conferred on it on February 22, 2017, in London. The award was presented by Baroness Verma, Chairman of the Lords European External Affairs Committee & Member of the Lords EU Select Committee.
- c) During the year 2018, the Case Writing Awards won by Case Research Center include:
 - i. The Case Centre UK's 'Outstanding Case Writer' Award.
 - ii. The Glendal E. and Alice D. Wright Prize Fund for Conflict and Collaboration Case Studies in International Development
 - iii. Multiple Awards in the Oikos Case Writing Competition, organized by Oikos International, Switzerland – First prizes in all the three tracks.

- iv. Award in the “Contest for the Best China-Focused Cases”, organized by China Europe International Business School.
- v. Awards in the John Molson International MBA Case Writing Competition, organized by Concordia University, Canada.

6. Management Development Programs

The University has a strong industry interface through executive development programs for the public and private sectors and the government. To strengthen this interface, we offered 13 Management Development Programs (MDPs) consisting of 505 participant days during the year for several organizations including the Indian Railways, National Academy for Defense Procurement (NADP), public and private sector banks, and Israeli micro irrigation company Netafim.

7. MOU with The University of Newcastle, Australia

Professor Tony Travaglione, Pro Vice Chancellor, School of Business and Law, Prof. Tony Drew, Dean International, University of Newcastle, Australia, along with a partner institution represented by Dr. Rashmi Jain, Chair and Professor of Information and Operations Management, Feliciano School of Business, Montclair Business School, New Jersey, visited our University in April 2018. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the University of Newcastle to facilitate and promote research and academic exchange.

8. The Center for Entrepreneurship Development

The Center for Entrepreneurship Development aims to foster the culture of entrepreneurship among the students and epitomizes the power of innovation. Entrepreneurship Development courses are introduced across undergraduate and master’s programs. These courses help the students to develop an entrepreneurial mindset. They motivate the students to not only start companies but also to think creatively and ambitiously and to become better managers.

The Entrepreneurship Club, Macon, invited ten entrepreneurs and CEOs as guest speakers. They also organized three panel discussions focusing on business plans and startups. The Club conducted the following events:

Business Canvas Model – to develop new ideas and to construct a business plan and how to present it to various angel investors and venture capitalists.

Start-up Drive – A fair that showcased the innovative ideas of students that turned into actual start-ups in the areas of apparel, personalized gifts, e-commerce, digital marketing, ethical hacking & information security, artificial intelligence and machine learning.

A team of two students developed a mobile app for an agricultural application for farmers, which was supported by ICRISAT, Hyderabad.

A series of about 50 sessions on entrepreneurship development were conducted by the faculty and entrepreneurs.

E-Week: This is an annual one-week event conducted in the month of November which includes guest lectures on start-ups, panel discussions, a hackathon competition, a national level business plan competition and an exclusive women entrepreneur day.

9. Centre for Women Development

The Centre for Women Development conducted three activities on March 8th & 9th 2018 as part of International Women's Day:

- a) A Business Training Program for 50 Rural Women-Entrepreneurs from the villages surrounding the IFHE Campus.
- b) A workshop entitled “Role of women in marketing Agri Products” for 150 farmers from the nearby village of Dontanapalli of which 100 were women.
- c) Two panel discussions on “Can women break the glass ceiling?” and “Women empowerment through men” were conducted to coincide with International Women's Day.

The Centre for Women Development also organized a panel discussion on September 15, 2017, on Gender Violence.

10. School of Architecture

A two-member committee appointed by the Council of Architecture (COA) inspected The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education on June 4, 2018, in connection with the proposed School of Architecture starting from the academic year 2018-19. The team was fully satisfied with the infrastructure and other facilities at the University. The COA has given

the permission to start B.Arch Program from the academic year 2018-19. AICTE has also given approval to start the B.Arch Program.

I 1. Best Teacher Award in Management

Prof. (Dr.) Debapratim Purakayasta, Dean, Case Research Center, received the best teacher award in Management conferred by the Union Minister of Human Resources Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar, on March 20, 2018, at Teen Murti House, New Delhi.

I 2. Special Lectures

The Sixth N J Yyaswy Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Ratin Roy, Director and CEO, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, in the rank of Secretary to Government of India, New Delhi, on November 16, 2017, on the topic “Need to Persist with Fiscal Consolidation”. It was presided over by the Chancellor of the University, Dr. C Rangarajan.

The Eighth Foundation Day Lecture coinciding with the birthday of the Founder, Shri N J Yyaswy, was delivered by Prof. K Srinath Reddy, President, Public Health Foundation of India, New Delhi, a Padma Bhushan awardee, on March 6, 2018. The topic was “Health Development: Can India Bridge the Disconnect”. It was presided over by the Chancellor of the University, Dr. C Rangarajan.

I 3. Keynote Address by the Vice Chancellor

The Vice Chancellor participated in the Higher Education Conclave organized by BusinessWorld on March 15, 2018, in New Delhi and delivered the keynote address on the theme “Creating Institutions of Eminence”. Several Vice Chancellors and senior officials of leading universities and institutes of Higher Education participated in the conclave.

I 4. Distinguished Visitors

Several other distinguished personalities visited our campus to professionally enrich our students and faculty through their inspiring lectures. They include:

- Prof. Jagadish Sheth, Professor of Marketing, Emory University, Goizueta Business School, Atlanta, USA.
- Supreme Court Judges Honorable Justice Sri J Chelameswar, Justice Sri N V Ramana, and Justice Sri L Nageswar Rao, and several other distinguished legal luminaries.

- Dr.Arvind Subramanian, Chief Economic Advisor to Government of India, New Delhi.
- Dr. Ratin Roy, Director and CEO, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, in the rank of Secretary to Government of India.
- Swami Bhodamayananda, Director, Vivekananda Institute of Human Excellence, Ramakrishna Math, Hyderabad.
- Prof. K L Krishna, PhD (Chicago), Former Prof & Director, Delhi School of Economics, former Chairman CESS Hyderabad and presently Chairman, Madras Institute of Development Studies.
- Prof. (Dr.) R.Venkata Rao, Vice Chancellor, National Law School of India University, Bangalore.
- Prof. Tony Travaglione, Pro Vice Chancellor, School of Business and Law, University of Newcastle, Australia.
- Prof. Tony Drew, Dean International, University of Newcastle, Australia.
- Dr. G Satheesh Reddy, Scientific Advisor to Defence Minister & Director General Missiles and Strategic Systems, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, New Delhi.
- Dr. B.A.Prajapati, Vice Chancellor, Hemachandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan, Gujarat.
- Dr. M Govinda Rao, Emeritus Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy.
- Dr. B S Madhukar, Adviser, NAAC, Bengaluru.
- Dr. G Gopal Reddy, Ph.D, former Professor of Osmania University, Member, University Grants Commission (UGC).
- Prof. K Srinath Reddy, President, Public Health Foundation of India, New Delhi.
- Mr. Devendra Surana, President FICCI (Telangana), MD, Bhagyanagar India Ltd., Director Surana Venture Ltd.

15. Student Activities

Student activities remain at the core of the philosophy of education. The University strongly believes in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities being very much a part of the day-to-day life of students.

The University has 48 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 and participated in numerous competitions.

The University conducted various national level events such as Sankriya – IT & Operations Conclave, Trishna – A Management Fest, Triti – An Undergraduate Fest, Model United Nations, E-Week, and Inter-college sports fests AAVEG, ENTHUSIA2k17 & KHEL. These events saw participation from students of more than 25 reputed institutions from across the country.

The University also organized the following three events wherein 126 teams with 439 students from India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka participated.

- Louis M. Brown and Forrest S. Mosten International Client Consultation Competition jointly with the Forum of South Asian Clinical Law Teachers;
- Shri N J Yasaswy Memorial Asia Pacific Moot Court Competition; and
- Law Fest – LEXKNOT consisting of 7 major events viz., Asian Parliamentary Debate, Judgment Writing, Mediation, Legal Quiz, Essay writing, Photography, and Cultural Activities.

The students of the University emerged winners in various managerial, cultural, and technical fests conducted by IIM-Indore, IIT-B, IMT-Hyderabad, S P Jain-Mumbai, and Symbiosis Institute of Management, Hyderabad.

The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education takes pride in the fact that our students participate in various social service activities such as Blood Donation Camps, social awareness camps, waste management, visits to NGOs, providing legal aid and legal awareness to nearby villagers, and conducting leadership training to students in government schools. A Tree Plantation drive was also organized by the University as a part of ‘Haritha Haram’ – a Telangana Government initiative, and 300 saplings were planted.

‘Swachhata Pakhwada’ the fortnight-long UGC initiative under the ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’, saw the students of the University undertake various activities like Clean Campus Day, Clean Mess Day, Green Campus Day, Clean Hostel Day, and Clean Surroundings Day. The students enthusiastically visited surrounding villages, marketplaces, public health centers, and public spaces such as the railway station and bus stands to spread awareness about cleanliness. They also visited an orphanage and old age homes, and brought smiles on the faces of the children and the

elderly by engaging them in games and activities related to health and hygiene.

The University also celebrated International Yoga Day, Independence Day, Teachers' Day, Engineers' Day, Constitution Day, Swami Vivekananda's Birth Anniversary, Republic Day, and International Women's Day.

16. Corporate Relations Department

We have placed about 95% of our MBA students. Placements for the undergraduate students are quite satisfactory.

17. Graduating Students

Following are the details of the students who will be graduating:

S.No.	Program	Graduating students (approximate)
Faculty of Management		
1.	PhD (4-year)	13
2.	MBA (2-year)	1135
3.	Exec. MBA (2-year)	5
4.	BBA (3-year)	241
5.	MMS (Distance mode)	15
Faculty of Science and Technology		
6.	B.Tech (4-year)	159
Faculty of Law		
7.	BBA LLB Honors (5-year)	31
	LLM (1-year)	6
	Total	1605

18. Medals, Prizes and Awards

It is gratifying to mention that Apollo Hospitals have instituted two awards – in the name of the Founder Shri N J Yasaswy – one for the Best Teacher for overall excellence, carrying a citation and a cash award of ₹1,00,000, and another for the Best Student for overall excellence, carrying a cash prize of ₹ 50,000. In addition, six students will receive gold medals and five will receive silver medals.

To recognize excellence in teaching, the IBS Alumni Federation has constituted The Best Teacher Award and Institutional Development

Award which are given to faculty members on Teachers' Day every year. This year, Dr. Vighneswara Swamy, Professor of Finance, was given the Best Teacher Award on September 6, 2017, and a cash reward was shared by Prof. Venugopal Rao and Prof. Radha Mohan for their contributions to Institutional Development.

19. Conclusion

To sum up, the year 2017-18 has been a great year for us in terms of excellence in teaching, research, and institutional development. I am happy that for the students, there was a good balance between curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities as all these go to shape them into well-rounded personalities. I congratulate the students 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 the distinguished Chief Guest, Mr. Vellayan Subbiah, on this occasion. 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. Vellayan Subbiah for his presence here in spite of his hectic schedule. We thank you, Sir.

I wish to place on record my gratitude to the Ministry of HRD and the University Grants Commission for their continued support in the management of our University.

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, IQAC, and the Boards of Studies of various Faculties.

I would also 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 – teachers, staff, students, and alumni – for their unstinted cooperation. I hope in the years to come, their sense of commitment and quality contributions will enable this University to scale new heights of excellence.

Let me conclude by welcoming you all once again.

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