

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 Ninth

Convocation

Friday, 12th July 2019 at 1:00 pm





I. Introduction

Respected Chancellor Dr. C Rangarajan; Chief Guest Mr. Ravi Venkatesan, former Chairman, Microsoft Corporation (I) Pvt Ltd. and former Chairman, Bank of Baroda; Dr. A V Rama Rao, former Director, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology and founder Chairman and Director AVRA Labs; Chairperson of ICFAI Society Mrs. N. Sobharani Yasaswy; Mr. VR Sankara, President, Board of Governors, The ICFAI Society; Mr. E N Murthy, Member-Secretary, The ICFAI Society; Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, 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.

On behalf of The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education and on my own behalf, I extend a warm welcome to the Chancellor Dr. C Rangarajan; our distinguished Chief Guest, Mr. Ravi Venkatesan; Dr. A V Rama Rao, scientist, entrepreneur, and Padma Bhushan awardee; 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 the 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 four schools consisting of Management (IBS), Science & Technology (IcfaiTech), Law (ICFAI Law School), and Architecture (ICFAI School of Architecture). The University has a faculty strength of 280 and a student strength of about 5700. 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, 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 in Law, and seven certificate programs. The Faculty of Architecture offers the five-year B.Arch Program.

The University is a member of the Association of Indian Universities and a member of the London-based Association of Commonwealth Universities.

2. Accreditations, NIRF, and other rankings

AICTE Approval: The MBA, Executive MBA (Part-Time), B.Tech, M.Tech & B.Arch Programs have been approved by the AICTE for the year 2019-20.

National Institutional Ranking Framework 2019: In the Indian Rankings 2019 (NIRF), our Faculty of Management (ICFAI Business School) received the 26th All India Rank.

NAAC Accreditation: 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.

Graded Autonomy:

We have been accorded Autonomy by UGC. The UGC granted the autonomous status and graded the Deemed-to-be University as Category II. We were one of the 62 Universities in the country to receive autonomy.

SAQS Accreditation: IBS Hyderabad, the business school of the University, received the SAQS re-accreditation from AMDISA (Association of Management Development Institutions of South Asia). We have initiated the process for the 3rd cycle of accreditation.

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

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

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 are as below:

Economics: Regulation & financial stability; Energy intensity; Climate change & sustainable development; Productivity studies.

Finance: Asset valuation and pricing, Options pricing, Algorithmic trading, High-frequency trading, Co-movement and integration of international stock and bond markets, and spot and derivative markets.

Marketing: Advertising; Retailing; Web care and service recovery; Digital marketing; Brand management; and Business model innovation.

Operations and IT: Supply chain; Knowledge-management; Online-security & transaction-authentication; Green practices; Telemedicine & digital technologies in healthcare.

Human Resources: Positive psychology; Employer branding; Work-life balance; Employee health and well-being; Employee attitudes & behavior; Job search behavior.

Engineering: Digital communication systems; Machine learning; Robotics, Embedded & VLSI design; Artificial Intelligence; IOT; Satellite & wireless communications; Thermal engineering; Design & manufacturing engineering; composite materials & Mechatronics and alternate fuels.

Law: Restorative justice; Cybercrimes; Women's human rights and rights of transgenders; Solid waste management; corporate governance.

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 women safety, women empowerment, women micro entrepreneurship, and crowd funding.

The faculty members in the engineering college are pursuing five research projects amounting to Rs. 66.7 lacs. They are sponsored by the Science Engineering Research Board (SERB), New Delhi, and Teacher Associateship for Research Excellence (TARE). These are in the areas of Nonlinear instability analysis in an inclined porous bed, Quantum Field Theories, Darboux Transformations, Quantum Diffusion, and The effect of heat source on non-Newtonian fluid flow.

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 - The Case Centre with offices in Cranfield University, UK, and Babson College, Massachusetts, USA. In fact, one of our faculty members, 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. 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. These include 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. The Center for Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Incubation (CIEI)

The CIEI was established in February 2019 with the following objectives:

- to nurture entrepreneurial qualities among the students;
- to establish a full-fledged business incubation center;
- to nurture budding entrepreneurs to turn their ideas into business; and
- to capture best practices in promoting entrepreneurship through international collaborations.

Core activities :

- A core team of four faculty members across all four schools of The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education are working at the Center;
- At present, five startups have been incubated at the Center. A seed funding of Rs. 2.5 lakh has been sanctioned by the University for the startups.
- Two workshops have been organized by the Center and six more workshops related to incubation, innovation, and IPR have been planned for the year 2019-20;
- The Institution Innovation Cell (IIC) of CIEI is certified by the Ministry of HRD, GOI. (details at the CIEI website URL: <http://icmrindia.org/CIEI/index.html>)

8. Center for Women Development

The Center organized three events:

- **CEO Women Conclave** on the theme "Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world" in September 2018.
- **Panel discussions** on "New Age Leadership" in December 2018 and "Freedom to Choose" in January 2019.
- **A Workshop** on women's health and hygiene for housekeeping staff of the University in May 2019.

In addition, the Center completed a Seed money project on "Motives of women senior citizens staying at Old Age Home: Recent evidences from an emerging economy" in March 2019.

9. Center for Environmental Studies

The Center 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 of this year 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” respectively at ICFAI Law School, The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education Hyderabad on March 26th 2019. Out of 35 students participated, four have been declared as Winners and Runner up and awarded with cash prizes. Certificates were issued for rest of the participants to encourage active participation.

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).

A committee, appointed by the COA inspected the school on June 2, 2018. Subsequently another committee appointed by the COA inspected the school on April 15, 2019. Both the committees were fully satisfied with the infrastructure and the quality of teaching at ISArch.

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. It was professionally rewarding to all the faculty members and the participants.

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 ISArch students were shortlisted in the top 10 design entries.

ICFAI School of Architecture had an MOU with Green Business Certification Institute (GBCI) – United States Green Building Council headquartered at Washington DC, USA. This MOU was signed on 24th June 2019 where officials from GBCI and senior faculty members from The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education were present. It will help our students to learn more about green rating certification system towards sustainability. Our ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education campus could be the host for GBCI to conduct many workshops, seminars in the city of Hyderabad in future. It may also result in the establishment of the state of the art LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) laboratory in the ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education campus.

12. The Academy of International Business Workshop and Conference

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

Prof S Raghunath, of IIM Bangalore, Chapter Chair of AIB India and a member of the Board of Management of The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education gave the welcome address. The Vice Chancellor Prof J Mahender Reddy delivered the keynote address. Prof. Elizabeth L. Rose of Leeds University was the chief organizer of the workshop. Prof S Venkata Seshiah, Director; and Prof Shylajan, Dean, were the local organizers.

Several distinguished professors and fellows of AIB such as 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 resource persons in the workshop and delivered lectures on International Business. In all, 40 participants attended the workshop.

The University also organized the annual conference of the India Chapter from April 22-24, 2019. About 40 delegates and 6 resource persons participated. It was inaugurated by our Chancellor, Dr. C Rangarajan, who spoke on the theme “Going International: Challenges and Opportunities”. Prof S Raghunath, Chair, AIB India Chapter, gave the welcome address. 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 Praveen P A, 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, ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education delivered the inaugural address. Dr. B. Janardhan Reddy, Secretary, Education, Government of Telangana was the guest of honor. Members of the Board of Management, ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education, Chancellors, Vice Chancellors, Registrars, Directors and Deans and other distinguished members participated. The outcome of these deliberations was submitted to the Ministry of Human Resource Development as comments/suggestions on the draft policy.

14. Special Lectures

N J Yasaswy Memorial Lecture: The Seventh N J Yasaswy Memorial Lecture was delivered by Mr Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, New Delhi, on November 1, 2018. The lecture was presided over by Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chancellor of the University. The topic of the lecture was “The Path Ahead: Transformative Ideas for India”. The lecture was attended by the faculty, research scholars, students, and support staff.

Foundation Day Lecture: The Ninth Foundation Day Lecture was delivered by Mr Lakshmikumaran, Managing Partner, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan, Attorneys, New Delhi, on February 8, 2019. The topic was “Education: The Catalyst for Growth”. It was presided over by the Chancellor of the University, Dr. C. Rangarajan. Further the Chief Guest Mr Lakshmikumaran spent the afternoon interacting with the students and the faculty members of the law department.

15. Other lectures

Prof V S Chauhan, Chairman, Executive Council, The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), visited the campus on December 21, 2018, and delivered a special lecture on the topic “Research and Publications “. He focused on the importance of the quality of research in increasing the quantity of publications. He also pointed out the inclination of academic institutions toward the ranking and rating agencies which reduced the significance of research to a few measurable metrics. He expressed concern about the proliferation of fake journals that compromised academic rigor.

A lecture by Prof Elizabeth L Rose, University of Leeds, AIB Fellow and former AIB President, on the theme “International Entrepreneurship: Where to from here?” was held on December 21, 2018.

Another lecture was delivered by Prof Jagdish Sheth, Charles H. Kellstadt Professor of Marketing at Goizueta Business School, Emory University and renowned scholar and internationally recognized thought leader, on the eve of his 80th birthday, on January 10, 2019, on the theme “India and the New World Order: How India will become Strategic Globally?”.

16. Distinguished Visitors

Other distinguished visitors to the campus include Honorable Mr Justice Raghavendra Chauhan, Chief Justice of High Court of Telangana and several High Court judges; 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.

17. 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 held in Bengaluru on September 19, 2018. He gave a presentation on the theme “Ranking, Accreditation, and Internal Quality Assurance System” during the first panel discussion. The seminar was attended by a number of vice chancellors apart from staff of the NAAC.

The Vice Chancellor participated in the Elets: Higher Education and Human Resource Conclave, Hyderabad, organized by the Telangana State Council of Higher Education, Hyderabad. He spoke on the topic “Challenges of Higher Education: The case of ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education” on February 4, 2019.

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 central and state universities and distinguished academicians participated in the conference.

The Vice Chancellor chaired the valedictory session of the third annual conference of the Telangana Economic Association on February 10 at Osmania University Campus. The Chief Guest was Prof T Papi Reddy, Chairman, Telangana State Council of Higher Education.

The Vice Chancellor participated in the Round Table Conference organized by the Telangana State Council of Higher Education in coordination with the British Council on February 18, 2019, in Hyderabad. The theme of the conference was “Employment and Employability skills in Higher Education”. The Vice Chancellor gave a presentation on the topic “Graduate Employment: The case of ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education” during the Plenary Session on “The Role of International and Internationalized experiences in improving graduate employment prospects”.

18. Student Activities

Student activities remain at the core of the philosophy of education at ICFAI Foundation for Higher 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 ‘Trishna – Management and Cultural Fest’, ‘Entrepreneurship Week’, ‘C-Suite – A Boardroom Challenge’, ‘Sankriya – IT and Operations Conclave’, ‘IBS-Model United Nations’, ‘PECUNIA – Online Finance Competition’, ‘AAVEG –Inter-college sports fest’, and ‘Triti – An Undergraduate Fest’. These events saw participation from students of more than 50+ reputed institutions from across the country.

The students of ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education emerged winners in various managerial, cultural, and technical fests conducted by IIM-Ahmedabad, IIM-Indore, IIM-Lucknow, IIM-Kashipur, IIM-Rohtak, IIT-Bombay, IMT-Nagpur, IMT-Hyderabad, S P Jain-Mumbai, Nirma University, and Symbiosis Institute of Management, Hyderabad.

We also take pride in announcing that our students were selected in top corporate competitions such as HUL’s Speed Mentoring Program, HUL’s Big Brand Theory, HUL’s The Premier League, Yes Bank Transformation Series, and Yes Bank – Youth Leadership Program.

ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education 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 creating AIDS awareness and Save Energy and Water campaigns. Besides, a Tree Plantation drive was organized by the University as a part of 'Haritha Haram' – a Telangana Government initiative, and 300 saplings were planted. In addition to all these, our students have taken up the responsibility of painting the school in a neighboring village – Goppularam – to brighten up the learning environment for the kids there. Our Student Club, Sankalp, was chosen as "Best Partner for Social Service" by the Indian Development Foundation (IDF) for the second consecutive year. "Anokha Utsav" is a unique initiative of one of our student clubs, where every month students celebrate their birthdays with different NGOs, thereby spreading happiness and joy, while imbibing social responsibility in return.

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

19. Corporate Relations Department

ICFAI Business School (IBS): 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 – a testimony of the value that industry places in our students. BBA students have mostly opted for their family business and higher studies.

IcfaiTech (FST): In the Faculty of Science and Technology out of 176 students qualified for graduation 66 opted for higher education and 110 for placement. Till date (May 23, 2019) 80 have been placed and 30 are in the process of placement.

ICFAI Law School (FOL): In the Faculty of Law out of 57 students qualified for graduation 25 opted for higher education, and 13 opted for business and practice. Out of the remaining 19 who opted for placement, nine got placed in corporate and law firms such as Edelweiss Investment Ltd, Juris Prime (Law firm), Cyient, Dukes Ltd, Tempus Law Associates etc. and 10 are in the process of placement.

20. Graduating Students

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

1.	PhD	5
2.	MBA	1089
3.	BBA	320
4.	MMS (Distance mode)	34
5.	B.Tech	181
6.	BBA-LL.B Honors	57
7.	LL.M	2
Total		1688

21. 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 Rs. 1,00,000, and another for the Best Student for overall excellence, carrying a cash prize of Rs. 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. Debajani Sahoo, Professor of Marketing, was given the

Best Teacher Award of Rupees One lakh on September 5, 2018. A cash reward of Rs. 30,000/- was given to Professor Venkata Seshaiyah, Director of the Business School, for Institutional Development.

22. Conclusion

To sum up, the year 2018-19 has been a great one for us in terms of excellence in teaching, research, and practice. 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 our distinguished Chief Guest, Mr. Ravi Venkatesan, 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 Ravi Venkatesan, for his presence here in spite of his hectic schedule. We thank you, Sir.

We are grateful to Professor A. V. Rama Rao for accepting the Honorary Doctorate of this University and we thank him for his presence here today.

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 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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