

Speech for Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand Dr. K.K. Paul, as Chief Guest at the Convocation of ICFAI University, Dehradun, on July 15, 2017

Prof. Chetan Vaidya, Director, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi; Dr. M. Ramachandran, Chancellor; Dr. Pawan K. Aggarwal, Vice Chancellor; Member of the Boards and Academic Council; Col. AK Dutta, Registrar; Distinguished Guests, faculty members and my dear graduating students.

It is an honour and privilege to participate in the Convocation of ICFAI University, Dehradun. It is indeed a special day for the University, the students and their teachers and parents. I congratulate all the students who have successfully completed their Programs and have received Degrees to enter the professional world and assume their responsibilities. I also congratulate the faculty and staff, who I am sure, are equally proud of producing these graduates. My greetings to all of you ! I am happy that ICFAI University Dehradun is creating and disseminating knowledge and skills in core as well as frontier areas through innovative educational programs, research, consulting and publishing, and developing a new cadre of professionals with a high level of competence and deep sense of ethics and commitment to the code of professional conduct.

The first and foremost responsibility of any university is to produce well-informed, motivated and cultured citizens. We need a system of education that is based on positive methods of teaching and learning, which encourage creativity and self-reliance. It is of great importance to instill in each individual the spirit of 'Indian-ness', the core values of our culture and a commitment to serve the society. About education, it can be said that it is not preparation for life; education is life itself. It is the passport to the future, as tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. ***Education is the most powerful weapon which one can use to change the world.*** There can be no second opinion on the critical role that education plays in the development of a nation. Particularly as we are well into a knowledge economy. It is one of the most powerful tools that can initiate societal changes and transform the economic fortunes of a country. The need to make critical reforms in our educational system is more compelling now, in many ways, than at any time before.

We are living in times where knowledge is the ultimate power. India's emergence as one of the fastest growing economies in the world, poses a critical challenge to its preparedness to capitalize on opportunities for its massive and growing workforce.

I believe that Youth must grow out the habit of seeking government jobs alone, as this sector has only a limited capacity to absorb people. On the other hand, as our economy grows, several new opportunities in the private sector keep arising. Ours is a nation on the march, and its development can be faster, if the economy is galvanised by its youth power. Particularly taking advantage of '*Start ups*' and '*Make in India*' initiatives. Always look out for possibilities of becoming job providers, not just job-seekers. I must remind you that you are the most powerful young generation in human history. You are powerful because you have the most amazing technology at your command which no other generation could even dream of. Make sure you use this power of technology for improving your lives , your nation and the world. In this context, the university should tie up with industry for placements and also create a special cell for guiding the students towards start-ups.

Also, remember that you will be rewarded and honoured for talents of heart and mind namely intelligence, hard work, discipline, courage, loyalty and, perhaps above all, love and a generosity of spirit. These are the qualities that, at the end of the day, make you live a great and good life. These are the virtues that people honour. Just trust your instincts and be true to them. And, in doing so, you will, in your own small but significant ways change the world. The pursuit of your career should not be

completely focused on yourself and your immediate family. What you are today, and what you will become and achieve in future, is substantially because of the contribution of the small universe around you. So, you too must try to make some contribution to the society.

You are on the threshold of a new life, and what you have gathered in course of your time at the university, will empower you to live a good life. Always remember that your conduct and behaviour, ought to do credit to the institution that you have graduated from. Sagacity and compassion, resolution and vision should reflect in all your actions. You must stay rooted to your values, culture and calling, for in these you will find enduring answers to the real world. The world awaits you, make it a better place !

The India that you are graduating into is much more capable of using your technological prowess than the India we graduated into. Some of you may go into higher education and others may opt for careers. For those who are going to initiate their careers now, I would like to say that the world now has started respecting talent and brilliance more than ever before, in every profession, be it academics, be it law or the medical profession.

In order to harness the ingenuity and industry of young India, the educational institutions must change with the times.

Curriculum planners must draw up courses that are not only more job oriented, but also futuristic. This will ensure better and ready employability. Besides, students need to be encouraged to explore their own creativity, instead of reproducing received knowledge.

There is a need to foster an environment in which ideas can flourish. Certain innovative educational programs of the University, which also include research and developing a new cadre of professionals are bound to be extremely useful to the students as well as society. In future as our international trade grows and foreign investments come in legal issues are going to be important. Also the IPR related issues can open a new avenue for employment.

Universities of Uttarakhand must aim at include in their curriculum such areas of knowledge which are relevant to the hill state such as prevention and mitigation of natural disasters, hill farming, harnessing energy, effective use of bio-resources, herbal medicines and infrastructural development. There is a need to motivate research students to work on cyber crimes and prevention of cyber attacks. For this, the University must have a good computer department with cyber security as a specialisation.

The difference between a University and any other college of institution is that universities create knowledge through research. Our faculty should be encouraged to be more creative, write

original research papers or even books, which will concretise new ideas and open new avenues. For too long we have neglected research. Unless we make sufficient investment in research, development will continue to be slow and will suffer.

Dear Students, you are the gen-next, and our country sees you as the harbinger of change and progress. I consider you to be extremely fortunate for having the opportunity of studying in this premier institution. Your training here is not just a ticket to your bright future, but is also a responsibility towards society, that you must always be conscious of.

The need of the hour is for each of you to be a front-runner in the nation-building exercise. In all your endeavours demonstrate sagacity and compassion, resolution and vision. Look within your heart to find not just your mission but also the means for achieving it.

I congratulate all the ICFAI University students graduating today. You are adjudged to be worthy of the degrees that are being awarded to you and are now ready to face the exciting world outside the University campus.. I wish all of you a very successful career ahead. May you witness all your dreams turning into reality !

I also congratulate the VC, teachers and parents on this momentous occasion.

Thank You

Jai Hind !