



Rajbhawan Information Wing, Uttarakhand
Press Note

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The Governor of Uttarakhand Smt. Margaret Alva has said that the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system has played a significant role in recent years in disseminating higher education including technical and vocational education not only to those living in remote and inaccessible areas but also to those who are not in a position to get regular admission in colleges and universities in cities.

Delivering her address as Chief Guest after laying the Foundation Stone of administrative building of the New Campus of Uttarakhand Open University (UOU) in Haldwani today, the Governor praised the efforts of the Open University in this direction and said that even though without its own building or a proper campus upto now, it has been successful in attracting people's attention and interest in its Open and Distance Learning (ODL). "Distance education has the potential to reach the un-reached, marginalized and excluded groups, such as tribal populations and women, in far-flung areas", she said.

Among those present at the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony were Uttarakhand Chief Minister Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Member of Parliament Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba', Minister of Education Shri Govind Singh Bisht and Minister of Industries & Transport Shri Bansi Dhar Bhagat.

In her address, the Governor, who is also the Chancellor of Universities in the State, said that the Open University symbolizes our commitment to the cause of education and development of Uttarakhand and its people. "The University now has a total student enrolment of over 7000 and the diversification of courses is enlarging the scope of its academic outreach", she said.

"During the last one and a half years this University has been able to offer 6 Under-Graduate, 12 Masters, 5 PG Diploma, 7 Advanced Diploma, 16 Diploma, 25 Certificate and 5 Foundation Course programmes through its 8 Regional Centres and 170 Study centers established at various places in the State. This is indeed an encouraging effort towards augmenting higher and technical education in our country, particularly in Uttarakhand", she said.

The Governor said that the Uttarakhand Open University should be assigned all the private candidates who appear for examinations of various UG and PG programmes under Kumaun and other universities of Uttarakhand, as the nature of studies of private candidates corresponds with the ODL system of the Open University.

On the occasion, the Governor praised the Vice-Chancellor's efforts to link the courses of study to employment opportunities opening up in the State. "I am glad to note that different prominent Industrial Groups such as Tata Motors, are taking keen interest in tying up with the Open University for practical training and imparting of technical skills to students and then offering them employment in suitable jobs. This University-Industry interface is an encouraging initiative which needs to be carried forward", she said.

The Governor said that the University is set to commence around 15 new Diploma/Certificate courses in view of the fresh employment opportunities opening up for the youth of Uttarakhand. Languages coupled with speech and voice training is another emerging area as jobs in the call centres all over the country keep multiplying. "I am especially glad to note that the programmes of the University envisage providing equal opportunity to the women of Uttarakhand who have been left out the higher educational ambit so far", she said.

On the occasion, the Governor expressed her appreciation at the assistance and cooperation rendered by Shri Jairam Ramesh, Union Minister of Environment and Forest, Government of India and the Uttarakhand Chief Minister Dr. 'Nishank' in getting clearances for the allotment of land to the Open University. "It is time now for the construction work to begin. The U.P. Rajkiya Nirmaan Nigam – the construction agency – must implement the project speedily while maintaining high standards of work. I hope the building, particularly the Administrative Block, will be fully complete within one year", she said.

Those who were present on the occasion include Vice-Chancellor Uttarakhand Open University Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak, Registrar Prof. R.C. Mishra, academicians, educationists, ADC to the Governor Shri VK Krishna Kumar, faculty members and officials, among others.