



# CUHP CHRONICLE

The Mirror and Voice of the

**Central University of Himachal Pradesh**

[Established under the Central Universities Act 2009]

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## Editor's Desk ....

Dear Reader,

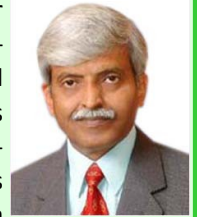
New Year always greets us with the budding flowers of hope and optimistic attitude. Flowers that brim with hope like the red tulips of a Sylvia Plath poetry. Flowers that provide us with a smiling reason to go forward in life with an enduring spirit. Happy New Year to all !

The University welcomes 2014 with a bundle of expectations. New batch of Research Scholars are joining to carry forward the mission of this unique academic center of excellence by writing the script of the same with their academic pursuits. The new Semester takes off with elan, to empower the future

graduates with various layers of employability and research skills. This January also proposes a hectic schedule as the Second Convocation is approaching, which would be graced by the presence of His Excellency, the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

Republic Day was celebrated with all the valour of patriotism. January has witnessed with pride, some memorable achievements of the University like the installation of laboratory equipments for the School of Mass Communication and New Media. School of Education is all set to offer professional post-graduate degree programmes

in Teacher Education. School of Business and Management Studies conducted a



certification programme in Retail Sector Management.

As usual, guest lectures in various departments, various outreach programmes as part of Community Lab, World Hindi Celebration, etc, have been the colourful feathers in the co-curricular cap of student activities.

Let us pledge to keep the momentum of achieving hitherto unseen and untouched peaks in academia.

*arvind agrawal*

## Visit by National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Team

The School of Education under the aegis of Department of Teacher Education has proposed and initiated the plan to launch a professional Teacher Education programme at the Post-Graduate level.

As per the government regulations, it is mandatory for all Teacher Education Institutions to get accredited and recognized by NCTE (National Council for Teacher Educa-

tion) - an autonomous body established in 1973 by the then Ministry of Education now known as the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

For the above programme, the School of Education has drafted new regulations and curriculum known as M.Ed. Regulations and Curriculum 2014. The School of Education has applied for NCTE commendation and for this

purpose, as is the due procedure, a team comprising of Prof. C. B. Sharma (IGNOU) and Dr. H.K. Kaushik (Retired Educationist) visited the University for inspection.

The Inspecting Team visited TAB, Shahpur on 27th January 2014. The team from NCTE along with the Head and Dean, School of Education, Dr. Arbind Kumar Jha,

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## Visit by National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Team

got to the documentation process to facilitate the process. The School of Education reiterated its standpoint with the University Motto for Inclusive Access and Excellence in Higher Education. The Visiting Team was apprised with all the academic and infrastructural resources available with the University. The Visiting Team commended the efforts of the new university.

The M.Ed. programme aims to evolve

leadership for educational practices. There exists a chasm between theory and praxis in Education. The School of Education believes that a sincere effort at the Teacher Education level will help bridge this gap.

The members of the visiting team also interacted with the Hon'ble Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Yoginder Singh Verma and other senior faculty members of the University. The Department of Teacher Education takes

upon itself to realize goals for which the University stands and add more feathers into its cap with its new professional Teacher Education M.Ed. programme to be launched from the coming session in July 2014. The School of Education knows that many endeavours need to be undertaken and miles to be covered and this is only the first milestone in this long journey.



Members of the Visiting Team along with the Faculty from School of Education

## First CUHP Student Council Meeting Held

Members of the newly formed Student Council of CUHP met for the first time on January 23rd to deliberate upon various student related issues.

For better administration, several committees were formed such as Sports, Art & Culture, Canteen, and Campus Maintenance. Students suggested for the provision of more classrooms and labs as well as introduction of medical facilities including an in-house doctor.

The Council also discussed the matter of the setting up of a gymnasium. However, this may not be possible as of now, due to shortage of space.

A demand for plying more buses would be considered as and when there is an increase in the number of students

using the service.

Previous requirements of starting a canteen and an ATM machine in the campus have been met.



## Guest Lecture on “ART OF THINKING” for Management Students

The School of Business and Management Studies organised an interaction session on 6th Jan. 2014 on the theme “Art of Thinking”. This session was addressed by Prof. Karamjeet Singh, Director UGC-Academic Staff College and Professor, University Business School, Panjab University, Chandigarh.

Prof. Singh started the session by stating that life is an echo, which means that as you sow so shall you reap. He advocated that if one wants to be happy in life then one must have faith in God and should be sincere and dedicated towards his work.

He further added that one must take good care of one’s health because without health there is no wealth. Happiness does not lie only in materialistic things because later you realize that when you were busy in picking up precious stones you were just left with collecting pebbles.

To have a blissful life one must have peace of mind. He said that sanctity of life should be maintained by following three mantras: *Dastar* (your personality), *Raftar* (your actions and postures) and *Guftar* (your communication). Speaking on the “Art of Thinking” he said — “if ART is transformed into THOUGHTS there comes a HOLISTIC change”. The only constant in life is change and this change can be towards good if and only we respect the importance of time. The simple word, punctuality if transformed into our deed will take us and our motherland towards economic and social progress. He ended the session by saying that one will stand apart from the crowd when he/she listens to all and acts upon good things, speaks well and retains meaningful things in life.

## Out-going Warden Dr. Anupam Sharma Given Emotional Farewell Dr. Navneet Sharma takes Charge as Warden, CUHP Men’s Hostel

On 21st January, Dr. Navneet Sharma from the Department of Teacher Education took charge of Warden of CUHP Men’s Hostel from Dr. Anupam Sharma, who left this University and returned to his parent institution.

Dr. Anupam Sharma had shouldered the responsibility of Wardenship for more than a year and a half. Dr. Anupam Sharma was given a solemn farewell in the presence of the Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Yoginder Singh Verma and Dean, Student Welfare & Provost, Prof. H.R. Sharma. On this occasion all the members of the hostel narrated the fond and cherished moments they had in

the company of the out-going Warden Dr. Anupam Sharma. The students bid farewell to Dr. Anupam with teary eyes. It was an emotional evening for everyone. The CUHP family wishes an engaging and enriching life for Dr. Anupam Sharma.

Students are looking forward to the new Warden Dr. Navneet Sharma to help them bring more feathers and accolades for the CUHP Men’s Hostel not only as a place of residence but as an invigorating institution of the Central University.



## School of Journalism, Mass Communication and New Media gets equipments for Media Production Lab

School of Journalism, Mass Communication and New Media got the new equipments for its media lab on 30th January 2014. The consignment of media production equipments were assembled and demonstrated in front of the students and faculty by the representatives of the company at the Seminar Hall of the Temporary Academic Block. The equipments were inspected by the Technical Sub-Committee members, Prof. I.V. Malhan, Dean, School of Mathematics, Computer & Information Sciences, Dr. Roshan Lal Sharma, Dean, School of Humanities & Languages, Dr. Rabin-dranath M, Dean, School of Journalism, Mass Communication &

New Media, Dr. O. S. K. S. Sastri, Head, Department of Physics and Astronomical Sciences and Dr. Pradeep Nair, Head, Department of Mass Communication & Electronic Media.

After the inspection by the committee, the school received 6 digi-

tal still-cameras and three video recording cameras including one studio camera. The batch of equipments also included two studio lights, an LCD TV, an audio console, lighting equipments and some accessories to be used in television production studio.



### Prof. Arvind Agrawal, Dean, SoSS, Invited to Japan

Prof. Arvind Agrawal, Dean, SoSS has been invited to Chair a Session on “Law, Migration and Unequal World” in the XVIIIth World Congress of Sociology to be organised in Yokohama, Japan (13-19 July 2014).

### Prof. Arvind Agrawal Invited as Visiting Professor to Germany

Prof. Agrawal has been invited as a Visiting Professor for two weeks (July 21 to August 01, 2014) by the University of Applied Sciences, Frankfurt, Germany in the Joint Summer Programme “International Encounters—Social Justice”. He is being sponsored by the host university.

### Prof. Arvind Agrawal Invited as Foreign Scholar to Italy

Prof. Agrawal is invited to participate as a Foreign Scholar in a Project “Jurisdiction and Pluralisms: The Impact of Pluralisms on the Unity and Uniformity of Jurisdiction” in the third week of September 2014 by University of Turin, Italy. He is sponsored by the host university.

## Prof. H. R. Sharma Elected Member of Editorial Board of Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics

Prof. Hans Raj Sharma, DSW and Head, Dept. of Economics and Public Policy has been elected Member of the Editorial Board of Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics.

It is a very proud moment for CUHP that its senior Professor has been elected by the internationally re-

nowned body of more than 70 years standing even when Prof. HR Sharma was not even present as a candidate. This honour has been bestowed by the academic fraternity in absentia in recognition of his scholarship. It may be noted that Prof. Sharma was also member of the Editorial Board of this Journal during 2008-11.

## Second Board of Studies of Department of Journalism and Creative Writing convened

The second Board of Studies for the Department of Journalism and Creative Writing was convened at Temporary Academic Block, CUHP on 27th January 2014.

Prof. Vir Bala Aggarwal, Chairperson, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla was present at the meeting as the subject expert. VC Nominees to the board, Prof. Arvind Agrawal, Dean, School of Social Sciences and Dr. Roshan Lal Sharma, Dean, School of Humanities and Languages were also present in the meeting.

The meeting which was chaired by Dr. M. Rabin-dranath, Dean, School of Journalism, Mass Communication and New Media, discussed the prospects and outlines of the new courses proposed by the faculty of the department. The Board of Studies approved 21 newly proposed courses.

An academic audit of the courses offered by the department in the last semester was also undertaken by the BoS. Dr. Archana Katoch, Member, Board of Studies, Mr. Harikrishnan, and Mr. Harsh Mishra, special invitees to the Board also attended the meeting.

## School of Journalism, Mass Communication and New Media conducts Special Lecture on Communication Research

Prof. Vir Bala Aggarwal, Chairperson, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, delivered a special lecture on Communication Research to the students of the School of Journalism, Mass Communication and New Media on 27th January 2014.

Interacting with the students, she discussed about the importance of different methods of communication. Explaining different concepts and methods used in mass communication research, she informed that selecting a representative sample was crucial to get more accurate results. Prof. Aggarwal reiterated that media production is closely connected to the results of market and audience research.

Dr. M. Rabindranath, Dean, School of Journalism,

Mass Communication and New Media and Dr. Pradeep Nair, Head, Department of Mass Communication & Electronic Media were also present on the occasion. Faculty members, Research Degree students and Post Graduate students of the School attended the lecture and took active part in the discussions held during and at the end of the Lecture.



## Certification Program in Retail Sector for Management Students

Training and Placement Cell of School of Business and Management Studies, Central University of Himachal Pradesh organised a 4-day Certification Program in "Retail Sector" in collaboration with EOS Edu Ventures, Delhi.

Addressing the students on the concluding day, Prof. Yoginder Verma, Pro Vice Chancellor, Central University of Himachal Pradesh stressed on the need of such sector training programmes which hone the employability skills of students and make them job ready. Prof. Verma highlighted the importance of life skills propagated by WHO, UNESCO and UNICEF for enhancing professional competence and ability to adapt and change behaviour to meet the challenges of world of work.

Dr. Ashish Nag, Training and Placement Coordinator, School of Business and Management Studies welcomed team of Eos Edu Ventures comprising of the Directors, Mr. Rohin Mittal and Mr. Abeer Sharma and trainer Mr. Akash Aggarwal. The training focused

on the intricacies of the Retail Industry and trained them on skills required for acquiring the position of Trainee Associates. During the programme, the trainee students were briefed about how to attend the customers in the store, material handling, safety issues in retail sector, customer relationship management, and staffing and HR issues in retail stores. Through demonstrations and video lectures they were informed of the skills relating to grievance handling at the store level. They were taught how to arrange and display merchandise at store level and how to reduce store losses. They were also given training about how to handle emergency situations at retail store levels as well.

The programme was attended by 76 students. The successful students shall be awarded certificate under the stamp of Government of India, NSDC and RASCI. The course contents of this certification program were defined as per the NOS (National Occupation Standards) by the RASCI in partnership with leading companies from the retail sector.



## World Hindi Day, 2014 celebrated in CUHP

As part of Central University of Himachal Pradesh initiative to promote Hindi in the University, a Hindi Competition was organised on World Hindi Day 2014 on 10.01.2014 at TAB, Shahpur for students of PG and RD programmes. Total 31 students participated in this written competition based on General Knowledge. Total 11 students were awarded cash prizes as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Student/Class	Position/Cash Award
1	Mr. Atul Chaudhary/RD, Physics	First/2000
2	Mr. Sandeep Kumar/M.Sc. Physics	Second/1500
3	Mr. Prafull Kumar Sinha/RD, MC	Third-I/900
4	Mr. Manish Sachan/RD, MC	Third-II/900
5	Mr. Sujay Kapil/RD, JCW	Third-III/900
6	Mr. Suresh Chand/RD, Physics	Third-IV/900
7	Mr. Anil Verma/RD, Education	Third-V/900
8	Mr. Nitin Rathi/M.Sc. Physics	Consolation-I/500
9	Ms. Shivani Sharma/M.Sc. Physics	Consolation-II/500
10	Mr. Suresh Kumar/RD, Physics	Consolation-III/500
11	Mr. Ravi Kant Chauhan/PG, Physics	Consolation-IV/500

Needless to state that World Hindi Day is being celebrated worldwide on 10th January every year. On the initiative of Late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi, the first World Hindi Conference was organised on 10th January, 1975 in Nagpur by Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti, an organization established by Mahatma Gandhi. In 2006, to commemorate this day, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh declared this day, i.e., 10 January to be celebrated as World Hindi Day.

Prof. Y.S. Verma, Hon'ble Pro-Vice-Chancellor & Dean, School of Business and Management Studies graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and encouraged the students by distributing certificates and prizes to the winners. During the award ceremony, Dr. Navneet Sharma, Assistant Professor, Education elaborated at length the importance of general knowledge in our life and the ways in which such competitions help the students to improve it. Prof. Arvind Agrawal, Dean, SoSS; Dr. Rabindranath Manukonda, Dean, SoJM&NM; Dr. Pradeed Nair, HoD, MC&EM; Assistant Professors Dr. Sayema Bano, Shri Chandra Kant Singh and Shri Harsh Mishra also graced the occasion and expressed their views.



Students taking part in the Competitions



Winners of the Hindi Competitions

## Nukkad Natak Enacted by Social Work Students

As part of the Community Lab Project the students of the Department of Social Work organised a **Nukkad Natak** in different rural and sub-urban locations around the Temporary Academic Block of the University—namely Rehlu, Shakoh and Shahpur villages. The theme of the *Naukkad Natak* was **Drug Abuse and Alcoholism**.

Students who belonged to the *SANKALP* Group scripted a theme which depicted the condition of drug addicts and the impact of drug addiction on youth with the aim to strive against Drug Addiction and Alcoholism. These students include Nasir Hassan, Imran Ahmad, Pankaj Kumar, Amit Sharma, Mohammad Nabi, Badal, and Md Sajid Khan from

the 4th semester and Neha, Nishant, Minhaj, Faizan, and Vishal Soni from 2nd semester.

The Skit was performed in villages, bus stand, and market of the Shahpur Area. The village Sarpanch, Up-Sarpanch and the local people also supported and appreciated the work of *Sankalp Team*.

The theme of the *Nukkad Natak* was decided on the basis of a need-assessment study done in the villages. The MSW students are required to undertake their concurrent field work as part of their regular course curriculum. Other areas in which the students contemplated to work on in the near future are waste management and waste segregation.



**NUKAD NATAK  
IN  
DIFFERENT  
HUES**





## Sports Competitions for Faculty & Staff: Table Tennis

The Table Tennis Competition for faculty and staff of CUHP was organized in the 2nd week of December 2013. The faculty and staff participated with immense interest and made the event a great success. All the matches were competitive and played with the right spirit.

In the singles competition, there were 17 entries. Dr. Roshan Lal Sharma, Department of English & European Languages, was the Winner of the “Singles Event” and Dr. P. Aparoy, Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, was the Runners-up. In the “Doubles Event”, there were 8 entries. Dr. P. Aparoy & Dr. Anupam Sharma, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, were the Winners; while Dr. S. Chatterjee & Mr. Gourav Chambyal, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, were the Runners up.

## Republic Day Celebrations

Central University of Himachal Pradesh celebrated the 65th Republic Day on 26th January 2014 at its Temporary Academic Block. Hoisting the tricolour on the occasion, Chief Guest of the function, Vice Chancellor Prof. Furqan Qamar said that institutes of higher education have a major role to play in the process of nation building. Referring to the President’s Republic Day message, he said that university, being a higher education institute, should contribute to this ongoing process.

Addressing the students and faculty on the occasion, Pro Vice Chancellor, Prof. Yoginder S. Verma said that Republic Day should be celebrated with the inspiring memories of the people who made the dream of Indian Republic possible.

The celebrations started with a March-past by the security staff of the university, before the unfurling the national flag by the Chief Guest. Students from different departments presented cultural programmes as part of the celebrations. Sweets were distributed to all, after the programme. Deans and Heads of different departments, faculty members and administrative staff were present on this occasion.



## MSW Students Participate in the IPPI Program as External Monitors

The 4th Semester Students of the Department of Social Work participated in the Integrated Pulse Polio Immunization Program (IPPI) in different parts of Himachal Pradesh as “External Monitors” from 19-22 January 2014.

A total of 12 students were selected to monitor the implementation of Pulse Polio Campaign in 12 districts of Himachal. These students were trained by Dr. G.P Dwivedi on 16.01.2014 in the Seminar Hall at TAB, Shahpur regarding polio immunization process and monitoring. The task of External Monitors was to check on a random basis whether children were vaccinated or not, cross-check the functioning of the vaccination teams, to identify areas which might have been missed out and to give special focus on the High Risk Areas (H.R.As).

PO Box 21,  
Dharamshala  
District Kangra  
Himachal Pradesh - 176215

Phone: +91(1892) 229330  
Fax: +91(1892) 229331  
E-mail: vc.cuhimachal@gmail.com



**Committed to Inclusive  
Access and Excellence in  
Higher Education**

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*Central University of Himachal Pradesh (CUHP) was established under the Central Universities Act 2009 enacted by the Parliament of India. The University became functional from 20th January 2010 with Professor Furqan Qamar assuming the charge as the first and founder Vice Chancellor of the University*

*Standing for Inclusive Access and Excellence in Higher Education, it is a multidisciplinary university. The Vision document of the University provides for seventeen different schools with five to six Departments and two to three Centres in each school. Of these eleven Schools and seventeen Departments and two Centres have been made functional*

*The University has adopted comprehensive choice based credit system which mandates students to accumulate at least 30 percent credits from departments other than those in which they major. This makes all programmes of studies interdisciplinary and all students study in an interdisciplinary environment. All programmes of studies are based on semester system and the University follows comprehensive continuous internal assessment and Grading System*

*The University is to have its headquarter in Dharamshala and two distinct campuses located in Dharamshala and Dehra, both in the picturesque Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh. The land for both the campuses have been identified and allotted to the University and proposal for FCA clearance is at the advanced stages of progress. Following which, the land is likely to be transferred to the University and construction of permanent campuses shall begin.*

*In the Interim, the university has commenced its academic activities from the Temporary Academic Block (TAB) located at Shahpur in the Kangra District. The Headquarter of the University is located at Camp Office at Dharamshala.*

### **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE ACADEMIC FRATERNITY ON NEW YEAR**

The Honourable President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, delivered a New Year Message to all the Students, and Faculty of Central Universities, IITs, NITs and other Institutions on the 7th of January 2014 through video-conferencing at around 12.00 Noon. This video message was telecast live from the Video Conference studio of Rashtrapati Bhawan using NKN.

A special arrangement was made for this purpose in the Seminar Hall at Temporary Academic Block (TAB) of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Shahpur. The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Furqan Qamar, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Y. S. Verma, all Deans of various Schools and Heads of various Departments along with the Teaching staff were present to listen to the Hon'ble President of India. Research Scholars and PG students too waited eagerly to listen to this historic event.

The Vice Chancellor of Central University of Karnataka gave a warm welcome to The President of India and all the Vice Chancellors, Faculty, Research Scholars and students participating in the programme. In his welcome address Prof. S. Sreenivasa Murthy said "...that we look forward to you for inspiration, guidance and support to bring up our national institutions to global standards". The complete text of the address of the President of India is given on page 11-12.



## Address of the President of India

Vice Chancellors of Universities, Directors of Indian Institutes of Technology and National Institutes of Technology, Heads of other academic institutions, faculty members, my dear students:

1. Let me begin by wishing you all and your families a very happy and prosperous New Year 2014. It is with great pleasure that I speak to you in the New Year. Throughout 2013, I have been closely interacting with various academic institutions. In February 2013, a Conference of Vice Chancellors of Central Universities and in November, a Conference of Directors of National Institutes of Technology were held in Rashtrapati Bhavan. So far, I have visited and addressed over 45 institutions including Universities, IITs and NITs.
2. Thanks to the National Knowledge Network (NKN), it is now possible for me to reach out to all of you today to share some thoughts on higher education in India. I am grateful to Prof. S.V. Raghavan and his team, and NIC team, for facilitating this video-talk with you.

Friends:

3. As I have said earlier, education is the true alchemy that can bring India to its next golden age. My first and foremost concern is the quality of education in our country. The standard of higher education has a direct relationship with the development of a nation and the quality of life of its citizens. Two recent surveys conducted by reputed international organizations have brought out the difference in the standards of education between institutions in India and abroad. None of the Indian universities find any place in the top two hundred institutions.
4. This was not the case in the past. Between Sixth Century BC and Twelfth Century AD, our seats of higher learning – Nalanda, Takshashila, Vikrama-

shila, Valabhi, Somapura and Odantapuri – dominated the world. They were visited by knowledge seekers from round the world. But now, many bright Indian students go abroad for higher studies. Nobel Laureates Har Gobind Khorana, Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, Amartya Sen and Venkatraman Ramakrishnan did their graduate or post-graduate studies in Indian universities before they went abroad to pursue higher learning.

5. Why is it that our higher education system that is capable of producing world class scholars loses them to foreign institutions? Is it due to the lack of research facilities and opportunities for creative and innovative thinking? To nurture and retain talent, our institutions must increase their potential for research and promote an eco-system conducive to creativity and innovation. What we need today are more collaborative partnerships on cutting-edge technology, better linkage with industry and greater incentivization through scholarships. This will not only encourage meritorious students to do research but also attract talent from foreign universities. In a country of over 1.2 billion people, only eight Indians have so far won the Nobel Prize. This country is eager to see an increase in the number. I am sure it will come from amongst you.

Friends:

6. To improve the standards of higher education, we must improve the quality of teachers, the learning capacity of students, and the physical infrastructure. But, physical infrastructure alone will count for nothing unless it is matched by the quality of human capital that comprises the academic community. The fac-

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## Address of the President of India

ulty, to be of a high order, must keep themselves abreast with the latest developments. To bring about qualitative changes in teaching, the institutions must arrange a common platform of resources to be used by all faculty members for skill enhancement and knowledge gathering. The National Knowledge Network offers an effective solution to the academic institutions to connect, collaborate and disseminate ideas, views, findings and research innovations. Using this network can compensate many of the shortages – in terms of faculty, infrastructure and resources – that hinder an institution from offering a great learning experience.

7. We also have to project our universities in a more proactive manner. Our institutions have to accord due seriousness to the university rankings process. A higher rank can boost the morale of academia and student communities. It will also help in opening fresh avenues of growth and placement for students. Better rankings will also encourage a greater flow of faculty and students from abroad, opening new vistas of frontier technology. I am confident of some Indian universities and institutes making it to the list of world's top two hundred universities in near future.

Friends:

8. During some of my visits to Central Universities, IITs and NITs, I have had the opportunity to interact with 'Inspired Teachers'. They are such teachers who make their students appreciate a subject from a wider perspective and encourage them to explore beyond the frontiers of the discipline. By their own example, they instill good moral values in their students. These teachers must be encouraged to share their wisdom,

thoughts and experience with the larger academic community. An Inspired Teachers' Lecture Series can be initiated to carry forward the benefits of excellence in teaching.

My dear students:

9. Pursuit of academic excellence should be accompanied by the quest for moral development. Your preparedness in life should be on the foundation of essential values of patriotism, compassion, tolerance, integrity and equality.

10. You, the young ones, are the bright future of our nation. The extent of our progress will be decided by your energy, drive, initiative and industry. Understand our nation and its institutions. Read, learn and formulate views on national issues. Choose to engage with our beautiful, complex, often difficult and sometimes noisy democracy. Understand your rights and duties well, especially towards those who are less fortunate. The voiceless deserve your voice; the weak deserve your strength; and the needy deserve your help. Make the best use of your knowledge in the service of the nation and its citizens. Remember what the great teacher, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, had said and I quote: "All education is, on the one side, a search for truth; on the other side, it is a pursuit of social betterment. You may discover truth but you should apply it to improve the status of society" (unquote).

11. In conclusion, I would like to once again wish all of you a very happy and rewarding year ahead. It is time for new beginnings. The air is thick with hope and expectation. Let this be a year of new opportunities and achievements.

**Thank you.**