



CUB TIMES

Convocation Edition

Thursday, 26 September, 2013

Central University of Bihar

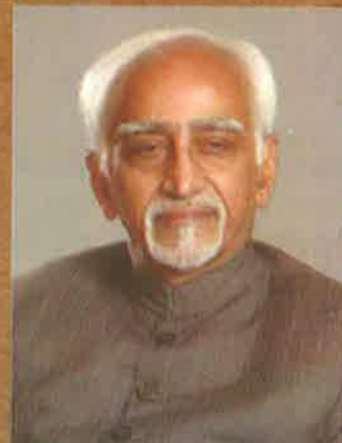
Established under the Central Universities Act, 2009

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1st CONVOCAATION



Hon'ble Smt. Meira Kumar,
Chancellor,
Central University of Bihar



Chief Guest
Hon'ble Shri. M. Hamid Ansari,
Vice President of India



Foreword

*I am delighted to welcome you to our brand new offering **CUB Times – Convocation Edition**, Central University of Bihar's special flagship edition on the memorable occasion of our nascent University's First Convocation.*

*Herein, dear reader, you will find messages and speeches of dignitaries on the occasion of the Convocation, the University Report, faculty information, alumni awardees, our alumni's **Raconteurs' Reminiscences**, the new alumni network christened, **CUBAA**, plus news and views we could all use.*

A University has to stand tall on its vision, its mission, defining values and represent the evolving ethos of a rich narrative that captures the collective imagination, passion and dreams of all our stakeholders – our students, the community of students' parents, our distinguished faculty, and our esteemed leaders as also our local community patrons and supporters.

*To realise the aspirations of our students is one goal but the nobler aim I believe is the leadership **CUB** must provide to guide students toward higher goals, the noble task of nation building to create an egalitarian and equitable society. The full potential of the youth must be channelized to fruition to enable them to compete, grow and face the challenges ahead with confidence and courage.*

*On the completion of four eventful years, this date in **CUB**'s dateless diary is indeed a moment to cherish. Here's to nobler aspirations to drive change in society and be the harbingers of a new dawn.*

26th September, 2013

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Nehal'.

Prof. M. Nehal , Registrar, CUB
Issue Editor

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Central University of Bihar

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9.	Prof. Sunil Ray Dean, School of Social Science and Policy, CUB.	10.	Prof. Bhaskar Majumder Head, Centre for Development Studies, CUB.
11.	Dr. Ram Kumar Associate Professor & Head, Centre for Environmental Sciences, CUB.	12.	Dr. Rajesh Kumar Ranjan Assistant Professor, Centre for Environmental Sciences, CUB.
13.	Prof. M. Nehal - Secretary Registrar, CUB, Patna.		

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11.	Dr. Rizwanul Haque Head, Centre for Biological Sciences (Biotechnology), CUB.	12.	Dr. Alok Kumar Gupta Head, Centre for Political Studies, CUB.
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15.	Dr. Kaushal Kishore Head, Centre for Education, CUB.	16.	Dr. Pradhan Parth Sarthi Associate Professor, Centre for Environmental Sciences, CUB.
17.	Dr. Rajesh Kumar Ranjan Assistant Professor, Centre for Environmental Sciences, CUB.	18.	Dr. Vivek Kumar Jain Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, CUB.
19.	Dr. Narsingh Kumar Assistant Professor, Centre for Psychological Sciences, CUB.	20.	Ms. Anju Helen Bara Assistant Professor, Centre for Development Studies, CUB.
21.	Prof. M. Nehal - Secretary Registrar, CUB.		

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5.	Shri R.D. Sahay Ex-Joint Secretary, MHRD, New Delhi.	6.	Prof. D.M. Diwakar Director, ANSISS, Patna.
7.	Shri R.K. Verma Finance Officer, JNU	8.	Shri Binod Kr. Pandey - (Secretary) Finance Officer, CUB

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3.	Prof. H.C. Pande Emeritus Chancellor, BIT-Merasa.	4.	Prof. Sunil Ray Dean, School of Social Science and Policy, CUB.
5.	Shri Sudhir Kumar Chief Engineer (P), EZ-II, Central Public Works Department, 7th Floor, Pant Bhawan, Patna - 800 001.	6.	Shri Navin Kumar Singh University Engineer, Allahabad University, Allahabad.
7.	Shri Binod Kr. Pandey Finance Officer, CUB	8.	Prof. M. Nehal - Secretary Registrar, CUB.

BUILDING & WORKS COMMITTEE

1.	Prof. Janak Pandey - Chairman Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Bihar, Patna.	2.	Prof. Manas Bihari Verma (Former Director, ADA, Bangalore) Chairman, Board of Governors, National Institute of Technology-Patna.
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MESSAGES



Hon'ble Shri Pranab Mukherjee
President of India
Visitor, Central University of Bihar

वेणु राजामणि
राष्ट्रपति के प्रेस सचिव

Venu Rajamony
Press Secretary to the President



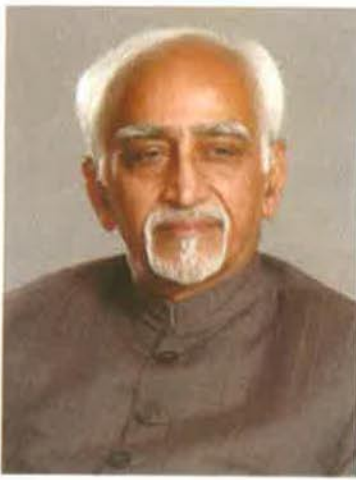
राष्ट्रपति सचिवालय,
राष्ट्रपति भवन,
नई दिल्ली - 110004
President's Secretariat,
Rashtrapati Bhavan,
New Delhi - 110004

MESSAGE

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, is happy to know that the Central University of Bihar (CUB), Patna is holding its First Convocation on September 26, 2013 and the University's Magazine "CUB Times - Convocation Edition" is being released to commemorate the occasion.

The President extends his warm greetings and felicitations to the faculty, staff and the graduating students of the University and sends his best wishes for the success of the Convocation Ceremony.

Press Secretary to the President



Hon'ble Shri Hamid Ansari
Vice President of India



MESSAGE

Hon'ble Vice President of India is happy to know that the Central University of Bihar (CUB) is organizing its first Convocation on 26th September, 2013 and on this occasion releasing the University Magazine 'CUB Times – Convocation Edition'.

The Vice President of India extends his greetings and good wishes to the students, teachers and the staff and wishes the event all success.


(NAGESH SINGH)

New Delhi
3rd September, 2013.



अध्यक्ष, लोक सभा
SPEAKER, LOK SABHA

नई दिल्ली
10 सितम्बर, 2013

Hon'ble Smt. Meira Kumar
Chancellor
Central University of Bihar

संदेश

प्रथम दीक्षांत समारोह के अवसर पर बिहार केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय का हार्दिक अभिनंदन करते हुए मुझे अपार हर्ष हो रहा है। ज्ञान और शिक्षा के इस केन्द्र का कुलाधिपति होना मेरे लिए सौभाग्य का विषय है। मैं हृदय से कामना करती हूँ कि यह नालन्दा और विक्रमशिला विश्वविद्यालयों की यशस्वी परम्परा की अधुनातन कड़ी बने, निरंतर पुष्पित पल्लवित हो, और शिक्षा और शोध के नूतन शिखरों को नित्य छुए।

आज के विश्व में भारत स्वयं को ज्ञान आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था के रूप में स्थापित करने का संकल्पशील प्रयत्न कर रहा है। शिक्षा बौद्धिक सम्पदा को समृद्ध कर मानव संसाधनों का विस्तार करती है। अतः देश के विकास में उसका योगदान बहुमूल्य है। उच्च शिक्षा का महत्व तो और भी अधिक है। इस दृष्टि से बिहार केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना ने नयी संभावनाओं के द्वार खोल दिये हैं।

मुझे विश्वास है कि यह अपने अभिनव शैक्षिक प्रयासों से उत्कृष्ट शिक्षण संस्था के रूप में सुविख्यात होगा।

इस अवसर पर "सीयूबी टाइम्स - दीक्षांत अंक" के प्रकाशन के लिए मेरी हार्दिक मंगलकामनाएं।

मीरा कुमार

मीरा कुमार (श्रीमती)



Hon'ble Prashant Kumar Shahi
Minister
Education Department, Govt. of Bihar, Patna



Office : 0612-2204904
Resi. : 0612-2215513

Ref. 7.6.3.

Date ... 10.09.13

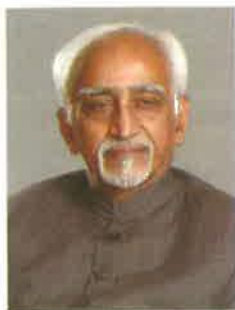
MESSAGE

It is a matter of great pleasure to know that the Central University of Bihar is organizing the Ist Convocation of the University. It is one among the Sixteen newly established Central Univeristy by the Govt. Of India under the Central Universities Act, 2009. In a short period of four years the University has carved a niche with its policies, programmes and pedagogical innovations for quality education and research. On this memorable occasion University Magazine “ CUB Times-Convocation Edition” is also to be published.

My good wishes for the success of the convocation and publication of the University magazine.

(P. K. Shahi)

CONVOCATION ADDRESS



Hon'ble Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India

Address by Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari at the First Convocation Ceremony of the Central University of Bihar on September 26, 2013 at 1030 hours in Patna, Bihar.

I am happy to be back in Patna, and on the occasion of the first convocation of the Central University of Bihar.

Coming to this ancient land of wisdom and knowledge, of Nalanda and Vikramshila, is a matter of intellectual satisfaction, more so today when we award degrees to the first batch of graduating students since the University was set up in 2009. I take this opportunity to extend my felicitations to them.

As they step out of the familiar confines of their alma mater and enter the real world of myriad challenges and boundless possibilities, I urge them to work tirelessly for nation building and to contribute to inclusive social and economic development in the country.

Recognising the importance of education in national development, the Central University of Bihar is among the sixteen newly established central universities set up by the Government with the objective of 'improvement of the social and economic conditions and welfare of the people, their intellectual, academic and cultural development.'

The CUB is expected to become a role model for, and contribute to, strengthening other institutions of higher education in the region. It is expected to evolve new formats that will link education to social and economic development, for the welfare of the people of this state and the country. Amongst these are the Masters programmes in Development Studies, Biotechnology, Bio-informatics, Computer Science, Environmental Science, Communications & Media Studies etc.

A university builds its reputation largely on relevant and innovative courses, quality teaching and incisive research. A faculty that inspires to bring out the best in the students is integral to the effort. I am confident that in the years ahead, the state of Bihar will get a boost on its journey of progress and prosperity from the contributions of this University and its alumni.

This work in the service of the nation should not be seen as a charitable gesture. It is a social, economic and moral imperative. We need to remember at all times Gandhi ji's advice that "the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Education has been recognised as the most important instrument for social, economic and political transformation of a society. A well educated population, equipped with the relevant knowledge and appropriate skills is essential for economic and social development in this age. Education is a potent tool for socioeconomic mobility and a key input for building an equitable and just society. It provides skills and competencies for economic well being. It strengthens democracy by imparting to citizens the tools needed for effective participation in the governance process. In a diverse society like ours, education acts as an integrative force, imparting values that foster social cohesion, communal harmony and national identity.

In the rapidly changing and integrated world of today when scientific and technological development and innovation are bringing a seminal transformation in human civilisation, much focus has been on education and skill development to match the demand for high quality and trained human resources generated by this unprecedented progress in human society.

In the Indian context, quality, affordability and accessibility have been adopted as guiding mantra for the development of our national education system. Emphasis has been laid on skill development; vocational training; promoting technical education; enhancing employability; establishment of innovation institutions; expansion of existing institutions and building new ones, with a focus on better quality in research, infrastructure, faculty and curriculum content.

If the initiatives taken by the government and the private sector relating to these objectives are implemented successfully, India is likely to have a world class education system, fully integrated to the global market place, which will be the driving force of our emergence as a modern and prosperous nation state, in which our peoples will enjoy the benefits of a peaceful, just and harmonious society.

Integration with the world of the twenty first century will also be contingent on subscribing to and practicing the globally accepted value system relating to governance. One important aspect of it that I wish to touch upon today relates to the protection and promotion of human rights.

This audience knows well that some of Emperor Ashoka edicts are perhaps the oldest pronouncements on human rights. The relevance of human rights in the modern world is best described by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. *"We will not", he said, "enjoy security without development, we will not enjoy development without security and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights"*.

Human rights are freedoms to which we are entitled by virtue of being human. They are based on the principle of respect for the individual and the fundamental assumption that each person is a moral and rational being who deserves to be treated with dignity. They are an important input in the higher evolution of human societies and at the same time they are an end product of that process.

The core principles of human rights have been reiterated in numerous international human rights conventions, declarations, and resolutions. These include universality, interdependence and indivisibility, equality and non-discrimination as well as the assertion that human rights simultaneously entail both rights and obligations from duty bearers and rights owners, have been. These were formalised in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 1948. It covers the entire gamut of human rights which are basic to human dignity and freedom.

Over the years they have been supplemented and amplified in other declarations that cover the right to life, freedom of speech, religion and voting; as also the right to food, education, health and shelter. Twenty more conventions prohibit specific abuses such as torture and genocide and protect specific vulnerable populations such as refugees, women, and children. Other conventions cover racial discrimination, prevention of genocide, political rights of women, prohibition of slavery and torture. Together they are reflective of universal validity, relevance and acceptance, as the accepted norm for human conduct in modern, civilised societies.

India has adhered to all of them, but is yet to ratify some, including the Convention against Torture.

Taking cognisance of the importance of protecting and promoting human rights in building a developed nation state, the founding fathers of our Republic

enshrined in the Constitution of India most human rights contained in these basic documents on human rights. This is evident from the contents of Part III and IV of the Constitution. These were supplemented by the Protection of Human Rights Act 1994 and many decisions of the higher judiciary particularly in the past two decades.

Significant correctives have been made. Amongst them are abolition of abhorrent practises like untouchability, female foeticide, discrimination on the basis of work and descent. Each of these has been made punishable under law. Affirmative action in favour of marginalised and deprived sections of society to ameliorate their lot and empower them has been undertaken and made justiciable for enforcement. Bonded labourers have been freed and rehabilitated. Judicial pronouncements have opened up new avenues for the realization of justice, and corrupt public officials and policemen have been prosecuted.

The statutory institutions for preservation and promotion of Human Rights, such as the National and State Human Rights Commissions are actively seized of other issues such as: abolition of child labour and manual scavenging; protection of women's rights; protection of dalits, tribals and other vulnerable segments of society against atrocities; provision of relief and rehabilitation of natural disaster affected population; right to food and health; protection of rights of differently-abled persons and HIV/AIDS patients.

Six decades on, the requisite intellectual, legal and institutional framework for protection and promotion of human rights is in place in our country. Questions however do arise in regard to their efficacy in actual implementation as cases of discrimination based on religion, caste, language, ethnicity, creed, work, descent and economic status continue to be reported. They relate both to violation or denial of rights by state agencies and to violation or denial of rights by individuals and groups to individuals and groups. The weak – individual or group - is invariably the victim.

It would suffice to mention the typology of human rights violations. A perusal of the annual reports of the National Human Rights Commission list the following: (1) Custodial deaths (2) Police high-handedness, firing, encounters (3) Illegal detention, torture or firing by military, paramilitary forces and police (4) Violation of rights of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (5) Atrocities on women and children (6) Bonded labour and child labour (7) Right to Health (8) Cases of Suo Moto cognizance taken by NHRC. The annual and periodic reports of the Commission give details of individual cases and of the corrective action taken. The NHRC has

also taken initiatives to spread human rights literacy in the country.

In this day and age, it is important to take into account how the world sees us. The Human Rights Council of the United Nations has established a mechanism for reviewing the state of human rights in Member States. Known as the Universal Periodic Review, it undertook this exercise in relation to India most recently in 2012. It observed that *'the situation of persistent human rights violations across the country presents manifold challenges.'* It concluded that:

"A number of progressive legal and policy initiatives have been taken by the Government of India. However, the lack of implementation of these measures due to bureaucratic inertia, lack of adequate allocation of resources, contradiction between economic policies, 'development priorities' and national and international human rights commitments, continue to act as obstacles to the realisation of human rights for India's most vulnerable".

The purpose of the Report, it added, *'is to highlight the many gaps that exist between the recognition of human rights in the country and their implementation'* and *'to illustrate the devastating impact of the ongoing cycle of human rights violations in India.'* It underlines *'the need for more concerted actions on the part of India to meet its human rights obligations.'*

Amnesty International, in its Country Report on India for 2013 maintains that torture and other ill-treatment, extrajudicial executions, deaths in custody and arbitrary detentions persist in India. Victims of human rights violations and abuses are often frustrated in their quest for justice largely due to ineffective institutions and what it calls 'a lack of political will.'

Many of the shortcomings mentioned in these reports have also figured in periodic reports of some national NGOs, in the media and in Parliament. It is evident, therefore, that there is at times a gap between what the official agencies project and what is perceived to be the situation on the ground. One reason for this is wider public awareness of human rights norms; another is the extent and speed with which defaults or alleged violations are brought to public notice.

Many new issues have become part of the human rights agenda and will remain crucial in the coming decades. The conflict over natural resources, the issue of gender equality and the increasing incidence of gender violence and of caste, communal, ethnic and sub-national conflicts among communities, and environmental implications of some developmental projects, are some examples. Human rights abuses by non-state actors, such as violent insurgent groups,

terrorists and extremists, both from the left and right, has also emerged as a significant challenge.

Faced with these candid assessments, how should we, as a society, react to them? One possible reaction is to dismiss them as devoid of veracity or denounce them as the work of hostile elements. The other is to respond to them in a mature fashion.

In a vibrant and robust democracy like ours, there is no shame in acknowledging the faults and the lacunae that exist in the policies and institutions pertaining to human rights. Our point of reference should be the Constitution of India and the principles, rights and duties enunciated therein. On this basis, we are duty bound, legally and morally, to address these challenges through firm and unbiased corrective actions by the state, civil society and other stakeholders. It is, and should be viewed as, a societal duty.

It is here that education in human rights culture becomes critically important in educational institutions. The novelist Charlotte Bronte wrote that *'prejudices are most difficult to eradicate from the heart whose soil has never been loosened or fertilised by education: they grow there, firm as weeds among stones.'* Universities and academic institutions must therefore take a lead in imparting values-based education to help us meet the moral challenges of our times.

We as a nation have to awaken our collective conscience. We also need to strive for global standards.

I am confident that through the collective efforts of the students, faculty and staff, the Central University of Bihar will become a shining symbol of unity, harmony and tolerance in this region and beyond. By doing so, your institution would have fulfilled its mandate and at the same time inspired others to follow suit and make ours a strong, prosperous and united nation.

I urge the graduating students to remember the timeless wisdom expounded by the philosopher Aristotle: *"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."* So be kind and show compassion to the less privileged and the deprived. Try and become ambassadors of peace, goodwill and harmony between communities and regions in our great country.

I thank the University for inviting me today.

Jai Hind

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Jai Hind

CHANCELLOR'S
ADDRESS



Hon'ble Smt. Meira Kumar, Chancellor, CUB

कुलाधिपति का अभिभाषण

सम्माननीय उपराष्ट्रपति जी; माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, श्री नीतीश कुमार; माननीय शिक्षा मंत्री श्री प्रशांत कुमार शाही; संस्थापक कुलपति प्रो. जनक पण्डेय; कार्यकारी परिषद् के सदस्यगण; संकाय और अकादमी के विद्वान अध्यापकगण; गण्यमान्य अतिथि; छात्र और अभिभावक तथा देवियों और सज्जनों:

नव स्थापित बिहार केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय के प्रथम दीक्षांत समारोह में उपस्थित होकर मेरा हृदय आनन्द से आप्लावित हो उठा है। सम्माननीय उपराष्ट्रपति जी, आपने अपनी व्यस्तता और गंभीर जिम्मेदारियों के बीच इस दीक्षान्त समारोह में आने के लिए समय निकाला है। मैं सबकी ओर से आपका स्वागत करती हूँ और आभार प्रकट करती हूँ। मैं इन्तजार में रहती हूँ कि कब मुझे युवाओं से, नई पीढ़ी से मिलने का मौका मिले। आज जब यह मौका मिला है तो बहुत खुशी हो रही है। मन उल्लास और ऊर्जा से भर गया है, मानो धूल भरी आंधी के बीच अचानक शीतल पवन का झोंका आ गया हो। मैं उन 156 विद्यार्थियों को बधाई देती हूँ जो स्नातकोत्तर उपाधि प्राप्त करने जा रहे हैं।

2. बिहार की भूमि शताब्दियों से गौरवशाली उपलब्धियों से भरी रही है। यह न केवल साम्राज्य निर्माण के लिए जानी जाती है अपितु क्रांतिकारियों, विद्वानों, मनीषियों और अहिंसा के पावन सन्देश वाहकों की जन्मस्थली भी रही है। यह स्वाभाविक ही था कि ऐसा प्रान्त शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में विश्वकीर्ति अर्जित करे। हमें गर्व है कि नालन्दा और विक्रमशिला में दूर-दूर से ज्ञान पिपासु आया करते थे जिनमें से ह्वेनसांग के अनुभव इतिहास के पृष्ठों में दर्ज हैं।

3. यह एक निर्विवाद सत्य है कि मानव सभ्यता के विकास में शिक्षा का अमूल्य योगदान है। प्राचीन काल में हमारे

यहाँ के गुरुकुल दीप श्रृंखला की भाँति ज्ञान का आलोक फैलाने में प्रयासरत थे। किन्तु, दुर्भाग्यवश उस समय शिक्षा केवल तथाकथित उच्च, अभिजात्य वर्गों तक ही सीमित थी और शोषित, उपेक्षित, पसीना बहाने वाले सर्वहारा वर्ग की नियति में थी वज्र कठोर वर्जनाएं, और अशिक्षा का गहन तिमिर। जो सक्षम थे, उन्होंने शिक्षा का प्रयोग अमोघ अस्त्र की तरह अपने को और शक्तिशाली बनाने और दूसरों पर आधिपत्य जमाने के लिए किया। जिस शिक्षा को जन-जन तक पहुँचना था, उसे स्वार्थ के संकीर्ण घेरे में बन्द कर दिया गया। भेदभाव के इस गहरे आघात ने समाज को विकृत कर दिया। गिने-चुने लोग बहुत आगे बढ़ गए और अधिकांश पीछे छूटते चले गए। सदियों से उपजे इस विकट असन्तुलन के दुष्परिणाम हम आज तक झेल रहे हैं। हालांकि, आधुनिक युग में भारत ने शिक्षा के विस्तार का कदम उठाया और स्वतन्त्रता प्राप्ति के पश्चात् इस दिशा में निरन्तर कार्य भी हुआ। पर शिक्षा से समाज में जिस परिवर्तन की उम्मीद की गई, वह पूरी नहीं हुई। आज यह सुनिश्चित करना होगा कि शिक्षा केवल आजीविका पाने, जीवन स्तर ऊँचा उठाने या अपना वैदुष्य सिद्ध करने का माध्यम बन कर न रह जाए। उसमें सड़ी-गली रूढ़ियों और सामाजिक विषमता को जड़ से उखाड़ फेंकने की ताकत भी होनी चाहिए।

4. हमने लोकतन्त्र अपनाया क्योंकि हम समता चाहते थे। जो कमजोर हैं, हाशिये पर हैं, किसी गिनती में नहीं, लोकतन्त्र में उन्हें समान अधिकार मिले। वे देश के भाग्य निर्धारण में बराबर के भागीदार बनें। लोकतन्त्र बराबरी लाने का सबसे सशक्त माध्यम है। किन्तु समाज पर जाति व्यवस्था की मजबूत पकड़ के कारण लोकतन्त्र का सही स्वरूप उभर कर सामने नहीं आया है। क्यों? क्योंकि जाति व्यवस्था गैर-बराबरी पर आधारित है और लोकतन्त्र का आधार है बराबरी। इसलिए दोनों साथ नहीं चल सकते। हमारे लोकतन्त्र की विडम्बना यही है कि इस पर जाति व्यवस्था हावी है। इससे पहले कि इसका बोझ असह्य हो जाए, हमें येन-केन प्रकारेण इससे मुक्ति पानी ही होगी।

5. शिक्षा में भी, लोकतन्त्र की भाँति भेदभाव दूर कर बराबरी लाने का अद्भुत सामर्थ्य है। यही कारण है कि 2009 में शिक्षा के अधिकार को संसद ने मौलिक अधिकार बना दिया और यह मेरा सौभाग्य है कि ऐसे युगान्तरकारी निर्णय के समय मैं सदन की अध्यक्षता कर रही थी। शिक्षा पर हमारी सारी आशाएं, सारे विश्वास टिके हुए हैं। हमारा मानना है कि शिक्षा में वह चमत्कार है जो शान्तिपूर्ण क्रान्ति कर दे। एक नया विहान ले आए। पर यह तभी संभव होगा जब सबको

समान शिक्षा मिले। निर्धन छात्रों को भी वही शिक्षा मिले जो सुविधा सम्पन्न छात्रों को मिलती है। भारत के नौजवान आज दो तरह की शिक्षा प्रणाली के बीच विभक्त हो गए हैं। इस समस्या का निदान युद्ध स्तर पर होना चाहिए और मेरी प्रबल इच्छा है कि हमारा विश्वविद्यालय इस कार्य के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हो। बिहार राज्य के प्रति भी हमारा यह उत्तरदायित्व है कि हम इस संस्थान को इस योग्य बनाए कि अन्य राज्यों में छात्रों के पलायन को रोका जा सके।

6. 21वीं शताब्दी की ज्ञान-आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था में सफलतापूर्वक प्रतिस्पर्धा करने के लिए भारत को पर्याप्त संख्या में विश्वविद्यालयों की आवश्यकता है, वे केवल होनहार स्नातक ही पैदा न करें, बल्कि अनेक वैज्ञानिक, विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में गम्भीर शोध-कर्ता और अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए आवश्यक प्रौद्योगिकी विकसित करने में भी सक्षम हों। केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय अधिनियम भारत में उच्च शिक्षा के इतिहास में मील का पत्थर है, जिसमें इस विश्वविद्यालय सहित 16 केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों की स्थापना का उपबंध किया गया है। मुझे विश्वास है कि बिहार केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय इस गुरुतर उत्तरदायित्व का निर्वहन कर स्वयं को विश्वस्तरीय संस्था के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित करेगा।

7. एक अभिनव और अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण पहल जो हमारे विश्वविद्यालय ने किया है वह है कला और शिल्प केन्द्र की स्थापना जिसके अन्तर्गत 5 वर्षीय पाठ्यक्रम के उपरान्त कला और शिल्प में स्नातकोत्तर उपाधि दी जाएगी। भारत अपने शिल्प के लिए विश्वविख्यात है। पर देश में शिल्पकारों, दस्तकारों, कारीगरों, बुनकरों की दुर्दशा हो रही है। उनका हुनर, जो पीढ़ी दर पीढ़ी और चमकाया जाता रहा है, अब लुप्तप्राय है। दस्तकारों और उनकी दस्तकारी को आगे बढ़ाने का कार्य अब यह विश्वविद्यालय करने जा रहा है। देश का कोई भी विश्वविद्यालय संभवतः पहली बार ऐसा कर रहा है। मैं समझती हूँ यह अपनी किस्म का प्रथम प्रयोग है। व्यक्तिगत रूप से मुझे इससे जो आत्म सन्तोष मिल रहा उसे मैं व्यक्त नहीं कर सकती। मैंने संसद में शिल्पकारों से संबंधित एक संसदीय मंच भी बनाया है।

8. हमारी शिक्षा-प्रणाली के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण चुनौती है, शहरी और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के बीच के अंतर को पाटना। विश्वविद्यालय अधिकतर शहरी क्षेत्रों में स्थित हैं। यदि हमें अपनी सामाजिक प्रगति को समावेशी बनाना है, तो ग्रामीण युवाओं की उच्च शिक्षा पर भी समुचित ध्यान देना होगा। भारत के गांवों में मानव ऊर्जा, बुद्धिमत्ता और आकांक्षाओं का

विशद भंडार है।

यह विश्वविद्यालय गया के निकट बनेगा, जहां से ग्रामीण अंचल दूर नहीं। अतः, मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि यह पारंपरिक जानकारी, शैक्षणिक ज्ञान और व्यावहारिक कौशल का बखूबी विकास कर उसकी अपार संभावनाओं को बौद्धिक संपदा के रूप में परिवर्तित करेगा।

9. विश्वविद्यालय और छात्रों के जीवन में पहले दीक्षांत समारोह का ऐतिहासिक महत्व होता है। इसलिए आज का दीक्षांत समारोह इस संस्थान, छात्र-छात्राओं, शिक्षकजन के विद्वत्मण्डल और कर्मचारीगण के लिए अभूतपूर्व है। मैं आपके उज्ज्वल भविष्य की कामना करती हूँ। इस विश्वविद्यालय को सफलतापूर्वक स्थापित और आरम्भ करने में आपने जिस लगन और परिश्रम का परिचय दिया है, वह प्रशंसनीय है।

10. यह अभी शैशवावस्था है। पर मुझे विश्वास है कि निकट भविष्य में यह भारत के सर्वोत्कृष्ट विश्वविद्यालयों में अपना स्थान बना लेगा। मेरी शुभेच्छा है कि सभी व्यवधानों को लांघ कर यह अपने लिए नए क्षितिज के द्वार खोले। संवेदनशीलता, शोधकार्य, अध्ययन-अध्यापन और शिक्षा प्रणाली में इसका स्तर इतना ऊँचा हो कि दुनिया में जहाँ भी प्रबुद्धजन के बीच चर्चा छिड़े, इसका नाम आदर से लिया जाए।

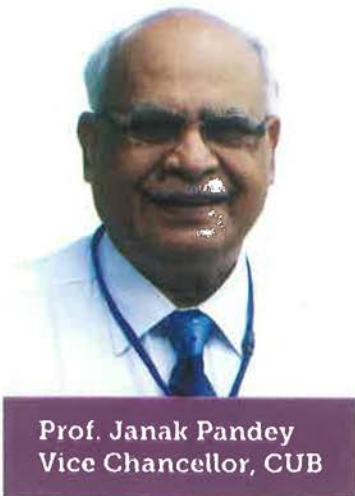
11. गत चार वर्षों में इस विश्वविद्यालय को कुलपति प्रो० जनक पाण्डेय ने जो नेतृत्व और दिशा-निर्देश दिया है, उसके लिए मैं उनका अभिनन्दन करती हूँ। कुलाधिपति होने के नाते मैं इस विश्वविद्यालय के उत्कर्ष का स्वप्न संजोए इसके प्रति पूर्ण रूप से समर्पित हूँ। इसकी सेवा में सदैव उपलब्ध हूँ।

12. अंत में, मैं छात्रों-छात्राओं से अपने मन के उद्गार कहना चाहती हूँ क्योंकि आप उच्च शिक्षा के साधक होने के साथ-साथ सामाजिक परिवर्तन के सूत्रधार भी हैं -

- जाति प्रथा को तोड़ डालिये। उससे मानव अधिकार का हनन होता है।
- दहेज प्रथा को पूरी तरह समाप्त करिये। उससे स्त्री का अपमान होता है।
- माता-पिता और बुजुर्गों की सेवा करिए। उन्हीं के त्याग और आशीर्वाद से आप यहाँ तक पहुँचे हैं और आगे बढ़ेंगे।

धन्यवाद!

UNIVERSITY
REPORT



UNIVERSITY REPORT EVOLUTION OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF BIHAR (2009-13)

FIRST CONVOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

PROF. JANAK PANDEY FOUNDING VICE-CHANCELLOR

Hon'ble Chief Guest, Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India, Hon'ble Smt. Meira Kumar, Chancellor of the University, Hon'ble Dr. D. Y. Patil, Governor of Bihar, Hon'ble Shri Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar, Hon'ble P.K. Shahi, Minister of Education, Govt. of Bihar, distinguished guests, dear students, specially graduating students and their parents and media associates. At the very outset let me extend a very warm welcome to each one of you at *Central University of Bihar's First Convocation*.

We are extremely grateful to our Chief Guest and honoured special guests for taking the pains to grace this occasion. CUB is fortunate in having Honourable Smt. Meira Kumar as the first Chancellor of the University. Her advice and guidance are invaluable for the growth of the University and an inspiration to us all. The graduates of the first three batches are privileged to receive blessings from all dignitaries.

Congratulations to all graduating students. Central University of Bihar believes you are our real heroes. I take a moment to acknowledge each one of you, your parents and families. Without your whole-hearted support and faith, CUB would not have grown from strength to strength. The quiet trust and confidence you repose in Central University of Bihar sets the institution on the path to building a solid foundation.

The shared struggle of institution-building has created an exceptional narrative for CUB. The *first set of consultants*, Prof. R.R. Sahay, Dr. Rajeshwar Mishra and Wg. Cdr. Shree Kant Mishra, the First Officer on Special Duty, has been of immense help. We acknowledge their sincere contribution in shaping the identity of the University.

The Founding of a Transformational Institution
To establish 12 Central Universities, one in each State, including Bihar, where there was none, the Central Universities Act, 2009, was enacted by the Parliament with the following mission objectives:

- To disseminate and advance knowledge by providing instructional and research facilities in branches of learning as diverse as integrated courses in humanities, social sciences, science and technology
- To take appropriate measures for promoting innovation in the teaching-learning process, inter-disciplinary study and research
- To educate and train manpower for the development of the country
- To establish linkages with industries for the promotion of science and technology
- To pay special attention to the improvement of the socio-economic condition and welfare of the people, their intellectual, academic and cultural development

Having journeyed up to this momentous milestone of the *First Convocation*, we pause to introspect about our achievements. A dream has taken birth only to grow from strength to strength in the coming years, making significant contribution to the progress of Bihar, our country and the world at large. Establishing such an institution is both a daunting challenge and an enviable opportunity.

I hold, universities are civilizational institutions inherently built with the intent to advance knowledge to be used for transformation and renovation of society and also for the larger goal of sustainable welfare of mother earth and its inhabitants. Launching CUB provided an invaluable opportunity to develop a system leading to creativity and free-thinking, the pre-requisite conducive conditions facilitating creation of new frontiers of knowledge. Presenting the *report* on the University's progress today, we capture certain salient moments of a daring voyage pushing the limits of human effort and thought.

No institution can be built without support from all sections of society. Soon after my joining as the first Vice-Chancellor on March 2, 2009, CUB started functioning from a small room in at Hindi Bhawan, temporary home of Chandragupta Institute of Management, with the permission of the Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar. We are indebted to its Director Prof. V. Mukunda Das.

In July 2009, we shifted to our present location, Birla Institute of Technology Patna campus. The Vice-Chancellor Emeritus of BIT, Prof. H.C Pande proved to be the proverbial wind beneath our wings. His support, as also that of the present BIT administration, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. K. Barhai and Director Prof. S.L. Gupta have been nothing short of extraordinary.

Within the first few months of its inception, CUB established a functional interface with the state and society by laying its academic foundation by launching its first Master Programme in Development Studies. CUB envisioned its relevance for the state and nation. Fully cognizant of CUB's bold initiative, Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar inaugurated our *Curtain Raiser Symposium* on Development Studies in July, 2009.

Evolution of CUB's Impressive Academic Architecture

The President of India in her capacity as Visitor of the University constituted various statutory bodies like the First Executive Council, the First Academic Council and the First Finance Committee consisting of eminent academics and administrators of the nation. As a result, we succeeded in shaping the academic architecture of the University which led to the statutory establishment of 14 Schools representing a range of knowledge areas such as - Mathematics, Statistics & Computer Science; Physical and Chemical Sciences; Earth, Biological & Environmental Sciences; Technology; Health Sciences; Social Sciences and Policy; Human Sciences; Languages and Literature; Media, Art & Aesthetics; Management; Education; Vocational Studies; Law and Governance; Agriculture and Development.

Our consultation with experts and other reputed international institutions continued facilitating the identification and launching of new academic programmes in a short span of four years. Sensing the possible shifting of CUB to its permanent site, the University opted for only two years Master programmes. Strategic decisions to expand academic programmes were also guided by the necessity to create an academic base of a new University, relevance of disciplines and availability of the minimum infrastructure required.

We followed the diktat of a strong faith that a new University must not delay academic activities under the pretext of planning or other constraints because no planning would be realistic without testing it at the level of teacher-student interactions, class room discussions and research activities.

Thus, with a modest beginning in 2009, we added five Masters Programmes in 2010 namely, Biotechnology; Computer Science; Environmental Science; Mathematics and Statistics, three Masters Programmes in Bioinformatics; Communication & Media Studies and Psychology in 2011 followed by seven new Master Programmes namely: Life Science, Economics, English, Hindi, Political Science & International Relations, Sociology and M.Tech. Computer Science in 2012, making a total of 16 Master Programmes. Consequently three batches of Master students (2009-11, 2010-12, 2011-13) have completed the requirements for graduation from the University and degrees will be awarded to them today.

Keeping in mind quality manpower requirement for Teachers and Lawyers as well as the future permanent location of CUB at Panchanpur, Gaya on about 300 acres of land yet to be transferred by the Ministry of Defence, we

decided to realize CUB's expansion goals by launching four integrated undergraduate programmes namely BA.BEd, BSc.BEd, BA.LLB (Hon's) and BSc.LLB (Hon's) at Gaya, from the current session starting in 2013-14.

Emerging University's Structure and System

The Central Universities' Act, 2009 provides a broad-spectrum, skeletal and legal framework for governance. However, it leaves out the job of developing appropriate statutes, ordinances and regulations as per the provisions of the Act. Significant effort and in-depth study have been devoted to culling relevant statutes and ordinances to shape procedures and guidelines for right governance. The task of the founding VC was to envision how to create a transparent and efficient working system by making the first ordinances. Though the first ordinances are still to be formalised as per the statutes, the Executive and Academic Councils as a system of governance are in place, comprising external experts and internal faculty.

Salient Features of the Academic Programmes

In the last four years our unique Semester System, with *Choice Based Credit System (CBCS)*, and continuous internal evaluation system has matured with enlargement of curricular space and has also encouraged accelerated learning opportunities. This system further accommodates diverse choices that dynamic and motivated students may like to have.

Choice Based Credit System has some unique student-centric features like enhanced learning opportunities, matching student's scholastic needs and aspirations, horizontal intra and inter discipline mobility, inter-institutional transferability, improvement in educational quality and excellence, flexibility for working students to complete the programme over an extended period of time, innovation and comparability of educational programmes across the country. This system facilitates vertical integration of knowledge and holistic development.

'Continuous Internal Evaluation' is the central feature of this University. It ensures transparency, fair-play and accountability. An *over-arching goal in curriculum design* is to promote *interactive learning* based on internal evaluation, constant and comprehensive feedback and guidance and counselling to students. The students on the other hand confidentially evaluate online each course in terms of content, preparedness, sincerity and objectivity of the faculty and overall satisfaction with the course in terms of learning outcome.

Our *Summer Internship* programmes facilitate classroom learning combining field based practical knowledge with hands-on experience to make the total learning outcome robust and holistic, besides determining their interest in a particular career thereby creating a network of contacts. Master students of all academic programmes are encouraged and supported for *field work, summer internships* and training in top class national labs or field settings.

Psychological Counselling and Guidance Services on campus help monitor the holistic development of students.

National Character of CUB

The *National Character of CUB* is nurtured by following UGC regulations and guidelines in the admission process and selection of students as well as recruitment of faculty and staff. Our students, faculty and employees are from distant states like Kerala, Andhra Pradesh,

Manipur, Rajasthan and also from our neighbouring states, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. This has helped create the University's unique cosmopolitan culture. In addition, a large number of experts from all over the country participate in academic and administrative decision making on a regular basis. CUB has taken necessary steps to create and maintain quality *infrastructure and ambience* for quality teaching and research.

The *Library* is the most vital resource to cater to students and faculty. Our library at CUB has a collection of over 15000 books, 1000 print and e-journals in various disciplines. Students and faculty have easy access to 24 x 7 internet and intranet facilities with digital access to an international database of world-class journals.

Labs – Lab facility for computer science, environmental science, life sciences and Biotechnology have been built and are progressively expanding.

Celebration of Sports and Cultural Events

Despite limitations of space and not having a proper campus, students and faculty organise tournaments in Badminton, Cricket and other field based sports. CUB also observes a legacy of cultural vibrance particularly on occasions of national as well as international importance such as Independence and Republic Day, Foundation Day, National Literacy Day, Gandhi Jayanti, Hindi Pakhwada Diwas, Women's Day, Mental Health Day and World Wetland Day. Other unique activities include Health is Wealth: Free Check-up Camp, Walk for Wild Life, Orientation Programme, Freshers' Welcome Programme, Farewell Programme and Ignited Minds Debate.

Academic Activities

Academic life at CUB is infused with regular *energetic debates, work-shops, seminars and Special University Lectures Series*. Under the University Lecture Series, internationally known scholars and scientists have delivered public lectures. As the first in the series on November 8, 2010 Prof. John Berry of Queens University Canada, delivered a lecture on Culture and Development. The second was a talk delivered on March 13, 2011 by Prof. Mewa Singh of Mysore University on 'Ecology, Distribution, Population Trends and Behavior of Indian Primates'. The most recent talk was on April 23rd, 2013 by Prof. Syed E. Hasnain on the topic 'TB Eradication: A Myth or Reality?' These Lectures showcase decades of dedicated scientific work of the speakers and purport to communicate with the general public. On this special occasion of the Convocation, I am pleased to present to you these lectures in print form.

Another successful annual event "*Development Meet*" has attracted experts, practitioners, and policy makers from the Government and Non-government sectors.

The *Meet* provides an opportunity to all stakeholders for dialogue and debate on theoretical ideas, policy framework, and the constraints in implementation to finding new paths in development strategies.

To prepare faculty and administrators of different Universities in Bihar for *UGC's New System of Academic and Administrative Reforms, 2009*, the University organised a successful workshop on *December 2-3, 2011* on the semester system, choice-based credit system, curriculum development, examination reforms and inter-institutional mobility of students. Distinguished academics, academic administrators and eminent educationists from various Universities in Bihar participated in this workshop. Prof. Furqan Qamar, Vice-Chancellor, Central

University of Himachal Pradesh delivered the keynote address, asserting that inter-relationships between social ground realities was needed to improve the quality of higher education.

Central University of Bihar Innovation Council (CUBiC)

The President of India, Shri Pranav Mukherjee, the Visitor to all Central Universities, while addressing the Vice-Chancellor of Central Universities on February 05, 2013 at Rastrapati Bhawan, emphatically stated that Central Universities occupied a critical position functioning under an obligation to become Centres of Excellence and role models in the realm of higher education, for others to emulate. He reasoned that "Science, technology and innovation have always played an important role in shaping the economic strength of a country". The Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy 2013 has proclaimed, its aim is: "*...to accelerate the pace of discovery and delivery of science-led solutions for faster, sustainable and inclusive growth.*"

The concept of the National Innovation System has undergone transformation in India by incorporating the knowledge and innovation of common people in the formal S&T system. Central University of Bihar has a mission to connect itself with communities to nurture and develop "Lok Vidya", traditional knowledge and skills on scientific parameters for greater integration, reach and wider application.

To pursue these objectives, *Central University of Bihar Innovation Council (CUBiC) is yet another initiative undertaken by CUB. On 11th May, 2013* CUB hosted a one-day Academia, Industry and Society meet to catalyse discussion on the theme of innovation. CUBiC is a concept designed to fling open the doors to long term dialogue on innovation. The objective of Central University of Bihar Innovation Council (CUBiC) is to weld the University's academic arm to industry and society, wherever inventive practitioners are engaged in creative and innovative work.

Future Course of Action

(i) *M.Phil.-Ph.D. Programme*: Our concern for quality M.Phil.-Ph.D. programme was delayed as it required a critical level faculty strength and academic infrastructure. The Academic Council of the University has decided to introduce an integrated M.Phil.-Ph.D. Programme as per UGC regulations in the current academic year in such disciplines where we have adequate faculty strength, lab, and library facilities. We plan to admit 20 research scholars this year in Maths, Computer Science, Environmental Science, Biotechnology, Political Science, Economics, Development Studies and Hindi.

Each selected scholar will receive UGC scholarship and with increase of infrastructure, new disciplines will be added. Hopefully with the expansion of infrastructure, the University will be admitting more than 100 research scholars in M.Phil.-Ph.D. programmes each year, shaping the evolution of a quality research university. Strengthening of integrated M.Phil.-Ph.D. programme is aimed at meeting the national level shortage of quality faculty

(ii) *Innovative Integrated Master Programme in Arts and Crafts*: Our honourable Chancellor, Smt. Kumar has been sharing her concern with us about the endangered and declining status of local and indigenous arts and crafts in our country. .

As stated by her:

"Indian craftsmen and artisans are renowned for their phenomenal skills which have been handed down generations from time immemorial. However, in the changing times, they are neither getting due social recognition nor commensurate remuneration. Some of these traditional crafts are verging on extinction as the families of these master craftsmen shift to other sectors which enjoy greater social standing and generate higher income."

To translate our honourable Chancellor's vision to reality and our commitment to nurture "Lok Vidya", the University has decided to establish a Centre for Arts and Crafts under the School of Media, Arts, and Aesthetics and will launch the Five Year Integrated Master Degree in Arts & Crafts.

To make the Centre achieve its objective, exceptionally talented artisans and craftsmen will impart their knowledge to students, and this will be one method of preserving these ancient crafts. Students would not only learn these rare art forms but would also be taught contemporary marketing strategies, to make them viable in the real world.

(iii) Centre for Conflict Resolution and Harmony: Central University of Bihar has institutionalized the Centre for Conflict Resolution and Social Harmony under the School of Social Sciences and Policy to actively pursue understanding the dynamics of Indian Society, including uplift of the disenfranchised, deprived, socio-culturally and economically backward sections. The policies and schemes framed for the betterment of rural masses, women and the downtrodden require continuous critical assessment and research. To facilitate its attainment, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India has granted Babu Jagjivan Ram Chair to the University. The Chair will engage in pursuing research, including teaching of Under Graduate and Post Graduate open courses pertaining to the philosophy and concerns of *Babu Jagjivan Ram*, his life and work, his illustrious political career, speeches and contribution towards nation building.

(iv) School of Vocational Studies: University Community College: Conscious of the great demand-supply mismatch in the Indian economy and the need for a more "skilled" work force, the University has decided to establish a Constituent Community College under the aegis of School of Vocational Studies. Our Community College, in consultation with industry, business and service sectors, will develop and update courses suitable to impart to unemployable youth the knowledge, skills and national level accreditation, enabling their employment as well as self-employment, by earning University accredited diplomas, certificates and degrees. CUB has taken experts' guidance to develop courses of study and will continue to envision such courses to create a more just society.

(v) School of Technology: Energy Science and Engineering: One of the biggest hurdles to fast economic growth of this region has been the non-availability of cost effective energy for powering industrialization. Recently, the Academic Council appreciated the efforts made by the Vice-Chancellor, under the aegis of Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative, to collaborate with Penn-State University to establish the Centre of Energy Science and Engineering under School of Technology and Energy Engineering in the next academic year.

Central University of Bihar can play a pivotal role in research and development concerning energy generation, transmission and its efficient utilization for a faster and greener growth of the economy.

We hope that in future CUB will emerge as a formidable think-tank, on regional and global issues, ushering in a common understanding and development oriented vision. I am sure CUB will be a seed-bed to produce goodwill ambassadors, who will appreciate regional problems as challenges with a global perspective. CUB, in this part of the world, is meticulously and harmoniously inching, in its own humble way, toward achieving the development goals of a pluralistic society.

The University has also consolidated its efforts and expanded its faculty resource base. Socially useful and contextually compatible programmes are crucial in helping evolve a curriculum with a glocal focus. The University's maxim of "**Learning Together**" drives its policy of *inclusive education*. Already into its fifth academic year, CUB continues to provide a unique educational experience to a mixed group of students from the state and outside it, allowing them to appreciate one another's points of view and, in the process, be enriched by the mini-India exposure the university provides.

I acknowledge the contribution of all those who have made it possible for the University to sustain momentum on its chosen path. I place on record the support of the **Ministry of Human Resource Development**, the **University Grants Commission** and the **State Government** in the establishment of Central University of Bihar. Furthermore, with a deep sense of gratitude, I own the contribution of nearly **500 experts'** persistent interaction, to help work out concrete academic programmes and courses. Of course, we acknowledge and appreciate the Executive, Academic Councils and Finance Committee for devoting time, energy and quality ideas in building the University. This is also a moment to acknowledge and appreciate all colleagues and administrative staff for their silent yet rock-solid support, which aided CUB's growth against all odds.

As CUB strives to be an academic institution in dynamic equilibrium with its social, ecological and economic environment endeavouring continuously for excellence in education, research and service to the nation, its success story can be contextualised with respect to faculty and alumni achievement. Out of faculty strength of 68, 18 have in hand research projects funded by the UGC, DST and CSIR. Out of 154 student alumni graduating from CUB, 64 are placed in jobs, 32 are pursuing M.Phil. or Ph.D. in institutions of repute and 36 are engaged in scholarship-aided research programmes funded by UGC, GATE, INSPIRE and ICAR.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. For evolution and expansion of an institution which aims to be a learning crucible of global standard and stature, inclusiveness as a value has to be inbuilt into its system defining its unique ethos, shaped by a constant process of change. A collaborative endeavour is driven by committed colleagues, staff and students. Our stakeholders' unlimited faith, intuitive insight and the groundswell of civic trust have guided Central University of Bihar's achievement so far. I express my sincere gratitude for their dedicated effort. We have begun well. Let us march onward.

**RACONTEURS'
REMINISCENCES**

RACONTEURS' REMINISCENCES

We publish here a salient part of a memoir of student-raconteurs for CUB Times. Central University of Bihar extended their alumni an invitation to share with their Alma Mater those cherished moments of a shared journey together capturing experiences of campus life as a student of academic sessions, 2009-2011, 2010-2012 and 2011-2013. Through the Nikon sharp lens of memory we requested CUBian alumni to undertake a nostalgic journey down memory lane, dwelling on their struggles, achievements and failures, writing about their rich reminiscences of and amusing anecdotes about campus life at CUB. This valuable snapshot plus anecdotal reportage is valuable, woven as it is into a rich tapestry of a nascent university's emergent and evolutionary ethos story. In mapping our forward voyage into a future full of untold possibilities students are our most cherished stakeholders. We wish them every success in life.

A Walk to Remember

"I am Pragya Priyadarshini, a former student of *Bioinformatics Department*, Central University of Bihar. I would like to share my experience as a Master student at CUB. Being a student of a nascent University I did not expect a lot from CUB when I took admission there. Unexpectedly I received the best environment, the best facilities, the best teachers and the best friends as well the best administrative and non-administrative staff that one could dream of in Bihar! I've gained rich experience, worked hard and had fun too! I will be always thankful to CUB for having renovated my career. This became possible only because of the fantastic faculty who were always there for students. The Cultural committee of CUB is a boon for CUB students. Personally, I am grateful to them as I regained my confidence in myself. The scholarship schemes are quite significant. This university is still untouched by dirty politics and games. I hope this piousness will remain as CUB continues to grow.

The two wonderful years spent at CUB now seem short. Time flew by on wings. I was filled with mixed emotions when I was asked to recount my experiences. My greatest strength at CUB was Professor Debdas Banerjee, former Dean, School of Social Sciences and Policy. Popularly known as DB, he was not just disciplined and strict but also caring and loving. He has been a true inspiration. He had a unique way of teaching. He continuously evaluated us through weekly tests and presentations but never for a moment did we feel any pressure. It would not be an exaggeration if I call him my idol. We got an opportunity to meet people like Professor Prasanta Ray (Sociology and Political Science, Presidency College, Kolkata) and Dr. Shibashish Chatterjee (Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University) who came to teach us. When DB left CUB and returned to Kolkata, I had tears in my eyes, but the best thing is that he is in touch with me even to this day.

At present I am pursuing research as *JRF at Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)* and most of my old batch-mates and seniors are excelling in life by dint of hard work. The credit goes to this incredible University. I want to say that the rigorous study, the multi-cultural environment, the unconditional help from faculty and staff made my journey at this university remarkable. This is just a beginning, CUB has miles to go, and I wish CUB does well in future, achieving both name and fame. I am convinced that I took the right decision in joining this University."

- Pragya Priyadarshini, M. Sc. Bioinformatics, CUB Alumnus

