

## Vice Chancellor, CUAP 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Speech

Dear fellow members of the CUAP community,

On the happy occasion of the 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Celebrations, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to you all.

Occasions like this provide us with an opportunity to pay tribute to the great freedom fighters whose sacrifices paved the way for the emergence of India as an independent nation. Multiple fights and battles were fought for India's independence. Several renowned freedom fighters are revered even today: the famous triumvirate Lal Bal Pal – Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Bipin Chandra Pal–, Gopala Krishna Gokhale, Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad, and Lal Bahadur Shastri. However, history textbooks only briefly acknowledge numerous unsung heroes' contributions. These courageous fighters, at the expense of their own lives, transcended societal barriers such as caste, creed, religion, language, and gender to challenge the unjust colonial rulers. As ours is called the Central University of Andhra Pradesh and is located in the Rayalaseema region, this year let us celebrate the memory of some great freedom fighters from this region. Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy, Gadicherla Harisarvottama Rao, Kalluru Subba Rao, and K.S. Raghavachari are great freedom fighters from Rayalaseema.

Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy, born on November 24, 1806, in Rupanagudi, Andhra Pradesh, was a leader who fought against the British in 1846-47 as the military governor of Rayalaseema. His people suffered greatly under the East India Company. Following a series of events, including his refusal to pay direct taxes to the British, he was captured and executed on February 22, 1847. To honor his legacy, the new airport at Orvakallu was named "Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy Airport" at Kurnool by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Gadicherla Hari Sarvottama Rao was born on 14 September 1883 in Kurnool and played an active role in India's freedom movement. He was inspired by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal and participated in the Swadeshi Movement. Rao started a newspaper called "Swarajya," founded the Hindustani Seval, and was involved in the Library Movement in Andhra Pradesh. In 1928, he named the Ceded Districts as Rayalaseema. Rao passed away on 29 February 1960. Kalluru Subba Rao was born in 1897 in Kalluru village, Andhra Pradesh. He played a significant role in initiating the Congress Movement in Rayalaseema, joined the Indian National Congress in 1919, and was imprisoned for his involvement in various movements for India's independence. He was elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly in 1937 and was awarded the Padma Shri in 1967.

K.S. Raghavachari, from Ananthapuramu, was deeply involved in India's freedom struggle. He was educated in Ananthapuramu and Chennai, then called Madras, earned a law degree, and became a prominent lawyer. Raghavachari formed alliances with local freedom fighters and maintained friendships with national leaders. His patriotism and commitment to nationalism led him to actively participate in movements like non-cooperation, alcohol prohibition, and Khadi. He engaged in individual satyagraha enduring severe police brutality, resulting in imprisonment in Allipuram and Ballary Jails. He continued his defiance during the Quit India movement, resulting in another arrest and rigorous imprisonment in Thanjavur and Nellore jails. K.S. Raghavachari exemplified unwavering patriotism, becoming a symbol of inspiration for the

people. His dedication to India's independence movement and his sacrifices are a testament to his enduring legacy.

If we reflect on the significant milestones in our great nation's history India has become one of the developed nation in last 78 years in all the areas its economy, technology, defense agriculture, transportation, health, education, Sc &Tech, its GDP and many more. In the last year, we find several accomplishments.

The first country to reach the moon's south pole: On August 23 at 6:03 p.m., ISRO announced the successful landing of the Chandrayaan-3 lander on the moon's surface. This victory made India the first country to land on the Moon's south pole and the fourth country in the world to achieve a soft landing on the moon. Over 100 women scientists and engineers played pivotal roles in this historic mission, breaking ground for gender equality in the male-dominated field of science.

G20 Presidency: India assumed the G20 Presidency on 1 December 2022 and hosted the G20 New Delhi Summit on 9 and 10 September 2023. Under the theme of "One Earth, One Family, One Future," world leaders engaged in discussions covering crucial topics such as climate and energy, food security, development, digitalization, and health. The G20 Summit in India exceeded expectations, with India achieving key milestones in global diplomacy, including welcoming the African Union as a permanent member and recommending the strengthening of multilateral development banks. Additionally, India played a key role in facilitating a consensus on a debt relief framework for Zambia, Ghana, and Ethiopia and gaining global consensus on the need for clearer policies and regulations for cryptocurrencies. The G20 summit marked the end of India's year-long presidency, concluding with the adoption of a G20 Leaders' Declaration.

India achieved significant milestones across various sectors in 2023:

1. Tiger Population Surge: The tiger population in India increased to 3,682 in 2023, marking a substantial 24% rise from 2,967 in 2018.
2. Women's Reservation Bill: Twenty-seven years after the Women's Reservation Bill was first introduced in Parliament, the Lok Sabha on 20 September 2023 passed a Bill with near unanimity to amend the Constitution and provide one-third reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. Hailing it as historic legislation that would enable greater participation of women in the political process, Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji said, "The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam is a historic legislation which will further boost women empowerment and will enable even greater participation of women in our political process" (X 9:31 PM · Sep 20, 2023).
3. Startup Registration: The number of government-registered startups in India reached a milestone of over 100,000, showcasing remarkable growth from 450 startups in 2016.
4. 5G Rollout: India's major telcos, Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel, achieved the fastest 5G rollout, covering 22 service areas in just nine months. India's 5G speeds were also ranked in the top 10 globally.
5. Surat Diamond Bourse: The Surat Diamond Bourse in Gujarat became the world's largest office building, encompassing 7.1 million square feet and setting new standards in architectural grandeur. It also showcased India's commitment to renewable energy.
6. E20 Fuel: India launched E20 fuel, a blend of 20% ethanol and 80% petrol, as part of its biofuel revolution, aiming for a nationwide rollout by 2025.

In 2023-24, Indian sports achieved several milestones. The Indian men's cricket team secured top spots in ODI and T20 rankings and second place in Test rankings. During the Hangzhou Asian Games, India won 107 medals, including 28 gold, 38 silver, and 41 bronze. Badminton players Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty became the first Indian doubles pair to claim the top spot in world rankings. In chess, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa reached the FIDE World Cup final as the youngest player. Vaishali Rameshbabu became the third female Grandmaster from India, and she and her younger brother became the first pair of Grandmaster siblings from India. In archery, Aditi Swami and Ojas Pravin Deotale secured India's first women's and men's gold medals at the Archery World Cup in Shanghai. Jyothi Surekha Vennam, an Asian Games champion, claimed a bronze medal in the same event. Manu Bhaker became India's first woman to win two Olympic medals in shooting in a single edition.

In a sense, we are also celebrating another Independence Day, CUAP's independence on our newly built, smart, permanent campus. It is a matter of pride that we have completed an academic block, a hostel for boys, and a hostel for girls in less than two years. Let us congratulate ourselves on this joyous occasion. In my Independence Day address last year, I promised that we would celebrate the next Independence Day on our new campus, and here we are! I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Government of India and Government of Andhra Pradesh for their great support and guidance. Government of Andhra Pradesh allocated 491.30 acres of land at Jantalururu village and formally handed it over to the University in February 2020. We are grateful to Government of India for allocating Rs 711 crore towards the infrastructure, out of which Rs 350 crore was for phase 1 of construction works: 2 academic blocks, 1 administrative building, 2 hostels for boys, 1 hostel for girls, 1 estate office, and major essential services like internal roads, electric substation, water tank, main gate, etc. The first phase of construction was assigned to CPWD. The construction began in February-March 2023 and 3 buildings – 1 academic block, 1 boys' hostel, and 1 girls' hostel – were completed and handed over to the University in the first week of August 2024. I am happy and proud that the megastructures have been completed in a year and a half. The role of CPWD in this great accomplishment is appreciable. I had set my goal like an 'Audacity of Hope' without realizing the challenges to be faced and I never failed in my life once the goal is set and stick to those dreams to be transformed into action. I believe that, Leader always leads by example not by promises and today you all see the success of new campus. Many times, the success what people doesn't see their hard work, persistence, late nights, rejections, sacrifices, discipline, criticism, doubts, failures, risks and etc. I take this opportunity to thank the whole faculty and non-teaching staff at the University who walked along with me to made it possible. Their support was crucial in helping me to complete my work. I commend their positive attitude in the face of challenges, and I appreciate their unwavering commitment.

The formal occupation of the three buildings on campus took place on 8 August 2024. The remaining three buildings are expected to be ready by September/October 2024. Once they are handed over to CUAP by CPWD, the University proposes to request Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji to inaugurate the University campus and dedicate it to the nation in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and the Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of India. And, a committee has been constituted to recommend national and local leaders, as well as natural landmarks, for the various buildings to be named after. In this context, I am happy to announce that the University has prepared a 100-year master plan.

When I assumed office as the founder Vice Chancellor of the infant CUAP on 21 August 2020, I knew that I would have to face many challenges; however, I was confident that I would

certainly overcome all the challenges in enabling CUAP to develop into a premier center of higher education. I pledged to ensure that the University would offer a minimum of 25 socially relevant demand-driven academic programmes upon the completion of my tenure. I am happy that I was able to realize my dream in just four years despite the formidable challenge brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The University, which started in 2018 with just 4 UG programmes and 2 PG programmes, now offers 8 UG programmes and 17 PG programmes with revised curricula in line with NCRF Guidelines. Our examination system is one of the best systems to implement digitization and students carry their examination time table along with date of announcement of results in the first day of the semester begins. The University offers 2 Compulsory Core Courses spread over two semesters for the benefit of all the students: i. Building Mathematical Ability and Finance Literacy, ii. Artificial Intelligence and Data Science. Further, CUAP is one of the first universities in the country to adopt learning outcomes-based curricula following the UGC Guidelines for all its programmes. And CUAP has mandated MOOCs (NPTEL) not only for students but also for teachers. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji said, "Our government is working towards making the country's higher education system more advanced and research-oriented. I am confident that our youth will provide leadership to the entire world in the future." CUAP believes universities should be hubs for quality research and has initiated 6 PhD programmes.

It is inspiring to see the University's student population grow from around 130 students from 5 Indian states in the 2018 Batch to about 1500 students from more than 20 Indian states in the 2024 Batch, all within just seven years. In this context, I am happy to mention that the shortlisted candidates in the recent recruitment of temporary and contractual assistant professors are from 14 different states.

To realize its goal of becoming a genuine 21st-century HEI in all respects, the University prepared a CUAP Vision-2047 Document following the NEP2020 recommendations. The CUAP Vision-2047 is based on the Viksit Bharat@2047 initiative of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and aligns with our nation's commitment to improving quality, equity, access, and inclusion in higher education.

Crossing so many significant milestones in a short period of six years is indeed a great achievement. On this occasion, we should acknowledge with gratitude the contribution of several individuals who served and those who serve this institution in various capacities. To mention a few of them, Prof. B. Kamaiah, Prof. G. Anjaneya Swamy, Prof. G. Gopal Reddy, Prof. B. Venkateswarlu, Prof. M. Bavaiah, and Mr Sashi Bhushan; and Prof. C. Sheela Reddy, Prof. G. Ram Reddy, Prof. VVN Rajendra Prasad, and Prof. S. Hanuman Kennedy. I owe a debt of gratitude to the members of the Executive Council and the Finance Committee who have been a great source of strength and support for me. A very important stakeholders in an educational institution are the students. CUAP students not only contribute to a healthy learning environment but also actively participate in cocurricular and extracurricular activities at state and national levels and bring laurels to the University. My best wishes to them.

My dear fellow members of the CUAP community, today is an occasion to look back and evaluate our various activities since 15 August 2023.

It is a matter of great joy for all of us that our six-year-old University has reached the 32<sup>nd</sup> spot in the IIRF (Indian Institutional Ranking Framework) Ranking 2024, ahead of many central

universities established earlier. The Ranking is based on seven significant criteria: Placement Performance, Teaching Learning Resource & Pedagogy, Research, Industry Income & Integration, Placement Strategy & Support, Future Orientation, and External Perception & International Outlook.

CUAP conducted several cocurricular and extracurricular events last year:

- G 20 Presidency Celebrations
- a mega plantation drive to create an Amrit Vatika under the Mera Mitti Mera Desh programme on the permanent campus
- an inter-collegiate festival as part of the World Tourism Day celebrations
- during Gandhi Jayanthi celebrations, Swach Pakhwada 3.0 campaign as part of the Swach Bharat programme
- a week-long series of activities on the occasion of the Festival of Democracy “Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye”

Recognizing that HEIs play a pivotal role in shaping the ideas of youth, the University organized a Festival of Democracy Campaign, featuring activities such as debates, essay contests, quizzes, and art exhibitions. The University conducted several events as part of the “Viksit Bharat@2047: Voice of Youth” mission.

The University conducted a crucial awareness campaign regarding the recently enacted criminal laws under new titles: Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (formerly IPC), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (formerly CrPC), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023 (formerly IEA).

Our Placement Cell has been very active. It was instrumental in organizing a Campus Recruitment Training programme for all the final year UG and PG students to make them corporate-ready and face interviews with confidence. It is heartening to know that our students have excelled in various sectors, including technology, teaching, healthcare, and consulting. Each placement is an opportunity and a stepping stone towards fulfilling careers and making meaningful contributions to society.

Internship is another area where our students have excelled: 39 Students interned at TATA Electronics, Hosur, Tamil Nadu; 18 Students interned at Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad, Telangana; Two students got an internship in Finance and Trades at NITI Aayog, New Delhi; 20 students interned at Rural Development Trust, Ananthapuramu; 174 students got placements out of 209 students who applied; and students of Applied Psychology did their internship at NIMHANS (Bangalore), AIMS (Bhopal), and IMHANS (Kozikode).

As you all know, CUAP strictly adheres to the guidelines issued by Ministry of Education, Government of India, and UGC, on matters including the MOOCs (offered by the Swayam platform) to be taken by the students. The Central University of Andhra Pradesh has been designated as the Active NPTEL local chapter in the category of Active LCs. This recognition is based on the number of students who registered for exams during the January-April 2024 semester. Many of our students excelled in the various online courses. Our students have achieved Gold -16, Silver-53, and Elite - 142. Mr. Mokara Jagan (Dept of Political Science) was awarded Gold + Elite with 94 % and Mr. A. Venkata Pavan Kumar (Dept of Economics) was awarded Silver + Elite with 79 %. They have been recognized as the NPTEL BELIEVER in the category of NPTEL

STAR. NPTEL Swayam congratulated CUAP on “Best Certified Count Improvement” and “Best Rating Point Improvement” for Jan-April 2024. NPTEL Swayam awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to Prof. S. Hanuman Kennedy of our University for his instrumental role as SPOC of the SWAYAM-NPTEL Local Chapter. They thanked him for being NPTEL's brand ambassador at CUAP. We all congratulate Prof. Kennedy on his achievement.

I am confident the wonderful ambience of our new campus will make the coming years witness many more achievements and successes.

Now, a word of advice to our students: My Dear Students, now you have the luxury of a smart campus with a well-stacked library, digital classrooms, and spacious hostel accommodations. What better privileges can a student expect from their institution? Make the best use of all available facilities and do justice to your academic programme and to yourselves. Remember, the University provides opportunities, not just facilities and services. My best wishes to you all!

My dear fellow countrymen,

As our Hon’ble President Srimati Droupadi Murmu, referring to the 10<sup>th</sup> fundamental duty listed in Article 51A(j) of the Indian Constitution, said, “Let us all take a pledge to perform our fundamental duty to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement.”

I would like to conclude with a hymn from the *Rig Veda* which emphasizes the complementarity of human knowledge: “Aano bhadra krtavo yantu vishwatah” [“आ नो भद्राः क्रतवो यन्तु विश्वतः”], which can be translated into English as “Let noble thoughts come to us from all directions.”

Thank you.

Jai Hind!

**Prof. SA Kori**  
Vice Chancellor  
15<sup>th</sup> August 2024