

Central University of Andhra Pradesh, Jnana Seema, Ananthapuramu
80th Independence Day Celebrations
15 August 2026

Dear fellow members of the CUAP community,

On the occasion of the 80th Independence Day celebrations, I extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to each and every one of you. This special occasion serves as a reminder of our enduring journey toward freedom and unity, and I hope it fills your hearts with pride and joy.

This day gives us the opportunity to pay tribute to our great freedom fighters, such as Mahatma Gandhi, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Dadabhai Naoroji, K. M. Munshi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, Chittaranjan Das, Bhagat Singh, Khudiram Bose, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Chandrashekar Azad, Subhash Chandra Bose, Mangal Pandey, Sukhdev, Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi, Sarojini Naidu, and Savitribai Phule.

We must always remember that the path to freedom was not achieved in a single day but required decades of strength, courage, and unity from leaders, freedom fighters, and ordinary people. India's struggle for independence was a multifaceted movement encompassing constitutional reformers, mass mobilisers, social activists, and revolutionaries.

Among the notable figures of India's freedom struggle was Shaheed Bhagat Singh, born in 1907. He became a symbol of revolutionary nationalism, believing that true political freedom required social and economic justice. In 1928, after Lala Lajpat Rai's death, Bhagat Singh and his comrades assassinated British police officer John Saunders. When his family wanted him to marry, the young revolutionary refused to marry, claiming that if he were to wed in enslaved, colonial

India, his only bride would be death, asserting that his true bride was freedom: “Meri dulhan toh azadi hai.”

In 1929, he and Batukeshwar Dutt protested colonial laws by throwing bombs in the Central Legislative Assembly, using the slogan “Inquilab Zindabad.” His execution alongside Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru on 23 March 1931 turned them into enduring symbols of martyrdom for the revolutionary movement. Chandra Shekhar Azad, born in 1906, was known for his vow never to be captured by the British. In 1931, surrounded by police in Allahabad, he fought bravely until he took his own life to uphold that vow. Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan exemplified inter-faith unity during the Kakori train action in 1925, uniting people in the struggle for freedom. Their story shows that patriotism is rooted in a shared commitment to justice.

Subhas Chandra Bose, or Netaji, was a passionate advocate for direct military action against British rule. He led the Azad Hind Fauj, or Indian National Army, during World War II, promoting the rallying cry, “Give me blood, and I will give you freedom!” Although the Indian National Army did not achieve a decisive victory, it significantly intensified opposition to colonial rule and left a lasting impact on India’s quest for independence.

The revolutionary spirit in India began well before the 20th century. The 1857 Revolt, led by figures like Rani Lakshmibai and Mangal Pandey, catalysed widespread resistance. Tribal leaders such as Birsa Munda and Alluri Sitarama Raju also fought against British colonial policies.

Bengal was a key centre for revolutionary nationalism, with Surya Sen leading the Chittagong Armoury Raid in 1930. Pritilata Waddadar and Bina Das showcased the involvement of women in the freedom struggle, with Waddadar choosing to end

her life rather than be captured and Das attempting to assassinate the Governor of Bengal.

Despite their different ideologies and backgrounds, India's revolutionaries united against colonial rule, embodying courage and the power of youth in resisting injustice. Freedom emerged from diverse efforts—constitutional, mass-based, non-violent, cultural, and revolutionary. As we remember figures like Bhagat Singh and Rani Lakshmibai, we honour their ideals of justice and equality, which continue to inspire us today.

At this point, I would like to mention two very significant points:

The Kharagpur detention camp, historically known as the Hijli Detention Camp, is located in West Bengal. It was built by the British in 1930 to imprison Indian freedom fighters. In 1951, the site was repurposed and became home to India's first higher technical institution, IIT Kharagpur.

The Hussainiwala National Martyrs Memorial stands on the banks of the Sutlej River near Firozpur in Punjab, where Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru were secretly cremated. It depicts the irrepressible revolutionary spirit of three National Martyrs who lit the eternal flame of liberty by smilingly embracing martyrdom for the motherland.

Our nation successfully continues its progressive march towards Viksit Bharat 2047. Since 26 January 2026, India's development narrative has been marked by advances in infrastructure, digital public infrastructure (DPI), and financial inclusion. Together, these initiatives reinforce the country's aspiration to become a developed nation – Viksit Bharat – by 2047. Core targets include reaching a \$30–\$40 trillion economy, achieving zero poverty, ensuring universal access to quality education and healthcare, and boosting female economic participation to 70%. Key

factors in this journey are robust physical infrastructure, advanced digital technology, and inclusive social protection programmes. These measures demonstrate the country's commitment to modern growth and its goal of building a fairer society for all citizens.

India's national highway network has expanded to 1,46,572 km, with four-lane highways and expressways growing to 45,516 km by March 2026. Over 3,600 km of high-speed corridors are now operational, aimed at reducing travel time, easing congestion, and enhancing logistics to connect production centres with markets and ports, thereby promoting regional integration and balanced economic growth.

The India-AI Impact Summit in February 2026 marked a significant global AI discussion, being the first global summit held in the Global South. India's digital leadership was emphasised through agreements on the India Stack and Digital Public Infrastructure with 24 countries, and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) became operational in eight countries, highlighting the global potential of India's digital systems.

By mid-2026, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana reached over 580 million accounts with deposits exceeding ₹3 lakh crore. It has improved access to banking, savings, insurance, and credit, especially for women and rural households. Additionally, the Direct Benefit Transfer initiative ensures direct transfer of entitlements to beneficiaries, covering 320 schemes across 56 ministries, promoting transparency and reducing intermediaries.

In this context, I would like to mention that CUAP has prepared two significant documents aligned with the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision: the CUAP-2047 Document and the CUAP's Institutional Development Plan.

Since January, CUAP has hosted a wide range of academic, co-curricular, extracurricular, cultural, and outreach activities. These activities reflected the University's ongoing efforts to provide students with opportunities for academic enrichment, practical learning, research engagement, skill development, and wider participation in campus life. Lectures, seminars, workshops, interactive sessions, and other academic programmes addressed contemporary issues as well as topics related to students' courses of study. Field visits and experiential learning activities further enabled students to relate classroom knowledge to real-world situations, while opportunities to interact with professionals and external experts contributed to broader academic and professional exposure. The University has started three new programmes – MSc programmes in Chemistry and Genomic Sciences, and MCA.

The period also saw considerable emphasis on interdisciplinary learning, research, and emerging areas of knowledge. Programmes covering artificial intelligence, financial awareness, research methodology, data analysis, academic writing, and other contemporary themes offered students and scholars opportunities to develop new skills and engage with evolving academic and professional contexts. Scientific and research-oriented activities fostered curiosity, innovation and practical engagement, while seminars, discussions and expert interactions created spaces for critical reflection and the exchange of ideas. The University's academic environment was further enriched through faculty development programmes, research-related workshops, and participation in conferences and other scholarly activities.

Alongside academic activities, the University maintained an active programme of cultural, creative, social, and student-centred initiatives. The three-day CUAP Got Talent 2026 and the Annual Cultural Day provided students with platforms to participate in music, dance, theatre, poetry, painting, photography, and other creative activities, while art sessions and an arts and crafts exhibition encouraged artistic expression and entrepreneurship. Social responsibility and

community engagement were reflected in NSS activities such as cleanliness drives, water conservation awareness, blood donation, and safety-related programmes. Awareness initiatives addressing well-being and stress management also contributed to students' broader development. Overall, these activities demonstrate a vibrant institutional environment in which academic learning was complemented by research, practical exposure, cultural participation, social responsibility, and opportunities for holistic student development.

This year, CUAP celebrated a momentous achievement by hosting its first convocation ceremony on 1 July. The event was graced by the presence of the Hon'ble President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, Visitor of the University, as the Chief Guest. Her visit added a distinguished significance to the occasion, marking a new chapter in the university's journey and honouring the accomplishments of its graduates. Hon'ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu delivered the Convocation Address and unveiled the Commemorative Plaque.

At the historic event, 1,268 graduands who successfully completed their programmes from 2020 to 2026 received the degrees to which they are entitled: BA, BSc, BVoc, BBA, MA, MSc, MTech, MBA, and MCom. These included 6 batches of UG students and 7 batches of PG students. Of the 1268 successful candidates, 592 are girls, and 676 are boys. The University's inclusive policy is reflected in the fact that 952 (75%) of the 1268 successful candidates belong to disadvantaged sections (EWS: 45; PWD: 2; SC: 252; ST: 77; and OBC_NCL: 576). The fact that those graduates came from 23 different states across the nation fills the young university with immense pride. Each graduate embodied not only their unique background and experiences but also the rich diversity that contributes to this institution's vibrant community. As you all know, CUAP is a student-friendly institution. We established, with the first batch of UG and PG students, the tradition of awarding gold medals to the best among successful candidates. In addition, there are endowment gold medals

instituted by philanthropists from India and abroad. There are 56 University Gold Medals and 8 Endowment Gold Medals. The fact that girls outnumbered boys among gold medal awardees proves that women are overtaking men in all fields, including education.

Here, I would like to quote a former student who said, “The first chapter of a beautiful legacy begins today. Proud to be part of my university’s very first convocation. A milestone we’ll always remember. July 1st ’26 – A historic day and the pride of CUAP.”

On the same occasion, it was a significant honour for CUAP to have the Hon’ble President formally inaugurate the CUAP Next Gen Network Data Centre and the state-of-the-art Next Gen Media Studio. The event marked a major milestone in the institution’s commitment to innovation and excellence in education and technology.

A day before the Convocation, i.e. on 30 June 2026, Hon’ble Chancellor Dr Shankar Achaya inaugurated Smt Droupadi Murmu Conference Hall at the Administrative Building.

The student-friendly CUAP continues the tradition, established last year, of rewarding excellence by offering a 20% fee waiver for the next semester to the top student in every programme. I have the pleasure of announcing their names:

II Semester Examinations Held in May 2026:

BA (Hons) English:	Josphine Pearl Stephy V
BA (Hons) Political Science:	Adhemma Gari Varshitha
BBA:	Mohammad Ayeasha Beebi
BCom (Hons):	S Harshini

BSc (Hons) CS & AI:	Bukkapatnam Afqarunnisa Naahiya
BSc (Hons) Economics:	Bandaru Sathya
BSc (Hons) Psychology:	Gurmanpreet Kaur
BSc Retail Management and IT:	Suddhapalli Sumadhari
BTech Computer Science:	Tejomurthula Venkata Ramasrujana
MA English:	Jasna Nasrin C K
MA Political Science:	Thota Naga Sesha Sai Anuradha
MA Telugu:	Athmakuri Lahari
MBA:	i. Erram Pavani ii. Naguru Hemanth Kumar
MSc Artificial Intelligence and Data Science:	Bammidi Ramya Jyothi
MSc Applied Psychology:	Doddi Lakshmi Meghana
MSc Clinical Psychology:	Tushar Biswas
MSc Economics and Data Analytics:	Riya Rajesh
MSc Geography and Geoinformatics:	Rimeika Wahlang
MSc Molecular Biology:	Keshav Kumar
MSc Mathematics and Computing:	Lakshit Singh Bisht
MSc Space Science and Technology:	S B S S S Vamsi Krishna

UG Programmes (9 Students Total)

Gender Breakdown

- Male: 0 (0.00%)
- Female: 9 (100.00%)

State-Wise Distribution

State	Female	Male	Total Count	Percentage
Andhra Pradesh	5	0	5	55.56%
Telangana	2	0	2	22.22%
Tamil Nadu	1	0	1	11.11%
New Delhi	1	0	1	11.11%
Total	9	0	9	100.00%

PG Programmes (13 Students Total)

Gender Breakdown

- Male: 5 (38.46%)
- Female: 8 (61.54%)

State-Wise Distribution

State	Female	Male	Total Count	Percentage
Telangana	3	1	4	30.77%
Andhra Pradesh	2	1	3	23.08%
Kerala	2	0	2	15.38%
Uttarakhand	0	1	1	7.69%
West Bengal	0	1	1	7.69%
Haryana	0	1	1	7.69%
Meghalaya	1	0	1	7.69%
Total	8	5	13	100.00%

My hearty congratulations and best wishes to the toppers.

Addressing the 57th convocation of IIT Delhi on 8 August 2026, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, said that every generation faces its own challenges and bears a specific national responsibility. He asked the students to consider how their decisions could contribute to the country and address its needs: "You are all aware that every generation faces the specific challenges of its time and also bears its own national responsibility. Whatever you do over the next 30 to 35 years of your lives will influence our journey towards a 'Viksit Bharat.' Therefore, the basis of every decision you make should also be: how will this benefit the country? Which of the nation's needs will this fulfil?" Shri Modi ji also urged students to keep their curiosity alive and continue learning, noting that the world and technology are changing rapidly and that "those who learn, win."

This opportunity to address our young students gives me the chance to focus on Generation Z, its characteristics, challenges, and solutions. This generation is defined by its distinct characteristics and faces various challenges in today's rapidly

changing world. I look forward to exploring these aspects in depth and discussing potential solutions that can empower and support them on their journey.

Generation Z, or Gen Z, generally refers to people born between approximately 1997 and 2012, though the exact dates vary among researchers. They have grown up with smartphones, social media, the internet, rapid technological change, climate concerns, and economic uncertainty.

Let me outline eight major features of Gen Zers. Gen Zers use smartphones, social media, and digital communication extensively. They engage with diverse cultures and social movements online. They are concerned about climate change, gender equality, racial justice, mental health, inclusivity, and human rights. They prefer quick, visual communication formats such as short videos and memes. They enjoy independent learning through online courses and educational apps. They exhibit creativity and innovation, leveraging digital tools for entrepreneurship and content creation. They value authenticity, personal identity, and ethical behaviour from institutions. They participate actively in civic engagement through social media platforms.

Because of and despite these major features, Generation Z faces a range of interconnected psychological, social, educational, economic, and environmental challenges.

- Increasing incidents of anxiety, depression, and burnout due to various pressures, with many young people feeling overwhelmed by global news.
- Excessive use of smartphones and social media affects sleep, concentration, and emotional regulation, while promoting unhealthy comparisons and leading to information overload.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated learning challenges, widening inequalities due to unequal access to resources.
- Young people face a labour market influenced by automation, temporary positions, high educational costs, and climate anxiety.
- Issues like cyberbullying, identity theft, and the permanence of online information pose serious risks to individual security and well-being.
- Many Gen Zers suffer from two kinds of addiction – drug addiction and technology addiction.

These challenges necessitate comprehensive support across educational, institutional, technological, and psychological sectors:

Young people should maintain a healthy digital routine, practice critical thinking about online information, engage in face-to-face relationships, and seek professional help when facing mental health issues. Developing skills in communication, financial literacy, and technology is also essential.

Parents and educators should guide through dialogue and example, provide mental health education, and balance digital learning with practical activities. Teaching media literacy and connecting education to real-life issues is crucial.

Expanding affordable mental health services, reducing stigma, and implementing stronger cyber-safety laws are necessary. Public policies should address issues like unemployment and educational inequities. Support from universities and employers for internships and career guidance is important.

While Generation Z is adept and socially conscious, they face challenges like digital dependence and mental health pressures. The response should focus on combining digital literacy, emotional support, meaningful education, economic opportunities, ethical technology, and active youth participation.

In this context, my appeal to the young minds is: Make sure that engaging with social media reels does not overshadow your traditional textbooks, as it is important to prioritise comprehensive learning. Additionally, be mindful of how algorithms can sometimes influence your educational experience, potentially overshadowing the valuable insights and guidance provided by your teachers. Also, please remember what President John F. Kennedy said: “Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.” This civic duty call should encourage every citizen to actively take responsibility for the welfare of both their nation and the world.

A very significant solution to the problems faced by Gen Zers is to move from Education 4.0 to Education 5.0. Education 5.0 represents a shift from the technology-focused Education 4.0 to a human-centred and purpose-driven approach. Its main goals are to re-humanise learning and develop ethically, empathetic, and socially responsible individuals alongside their technical skills. The curriculum addresses global issues like climate change and inequality, promoting interdisciplinary and problem-based learning. In this model, teachers act as mentors rather than mere information transmitters, and assessments focus on portfolios and projects instead of standardised tests. Education 5.0 integrates technology within a framework of human values, aiming to prepare learners for compassionate and responsible participation in society.

CUAP is taking several steps to help Gen Z students overcome some of the challenges they face. The University offers a Diploma programme in Peace and Conflict Studies. It proposes introducing foundation courses that integrate ethical consciousness, emotional intelligence, and social responsibility in its educational framework. It also proposes introducing courses in Indian Knowledge Systems, Indian Philosophy, Hindu Studies, and Human Values soon.

My dear students, as Gen Zers, it is also imperative that you take responsibility for becoming role models for Gen Alphas. Gen Zers can play an important role in guiding Gen Alpha by combining digital competence with empathy, responsibility, creativity, and ethical awareness. Their influence will be most meaningful when it is based on authenticity rather than authority. Young people are more likely to trust role models who listen to them, admit their mistakes, and practise the values they promote.

Gen Z can support Gen Alpha by modelling responsible technology use, practising emotional intelligence, promoting lifelong learning, encouraging ethical decision-making, advocating for eco-friendly habits, creating safe mentoring relationships, and encouraging participation in community and collaborative projects. By being authentic and accountable, Gen Z can help Gen Alpha navigate various challenges and foster a more responsible future generation.

Before I conclude, I have the pleasure of inaugurating two portals: CUAP E-Campus Portal (student.cuap.in) and Student Health & Wellbeing Portal (health.cuap.in). The university is taking significant steps towards creating a digitally enabled, student-friendly campus through the CUAP E-Campus Portal and the Student Health & Wellbeing Portal. These platforms are designed to simplify essential services, improve access to information, and support students' academic, administrative, and personal wellbeing needs.

The CUAP E-Campus Portal functions as a single digital hub for students, bringing together academic services, hostel administration, campus security, and other essential student facilities in one convenient application. Through the portal, students can access their personal profiles, hostel and room details, emergency contact information, and digital identity cards. They can also view their personalised

daily timetables and subject-wise attendance records in real time. The portal further enables students to apply for hostel leave online and track the status of their applications and approvals. In addition, digital QR-based gate passes facilitate paperless, secure, and convenient movement in and out of the campus. Students can also find official university announcements, circulars, campus directories, and important contact details in one centralised location. By integrating these services, the portal promotes efficiency, transparency, accessibility, and a more seamless student experience.

The Student Health & Wellbeing Portal provides a dedicated digital space for supporting students' mental health, stress management, and emotional wellbeing. It is intended to ensure that students can seek appropriate support conveniently and confidentially. Students can access the portal using their existing E-Campus credentials. Through the platform, they can book confidential one-to-one counselling appointments with university counsellors without lengthy administrative procedures. The portal also offers self-care resources, self-assessment tools, and practical guidance to help students address academic pressures, personal challenges, stress, and other concerns. By facilitating timely access to counselling and wellbeing resources, the portal reinforces the university's commitment to creating a supportive, inclusive, and student-centred campus environment.

Together, the CUAP E-Campus Portal and the Student Health & Wellbeing Portal represent important initiatives towards digital transformation and holistic student support. While the E-Campus Portal simplifies academic and administrative services, the Wellbeing Portal addresses students' mental and emotional health. Both platforms contribute to a secure, accessible, efficient, and caring university experience.

Let me conclude by expressing my sincere gratitude to the Government of India, under the dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, for its continued support and encouragement. I also express my heartfelt

gratitude to the Ministry of Education, Government of India, under the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Minister of Education, Shri Pralhad Joshi ji, for the ongoing encouragement and support extended to the University. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for its vital support in developing the university campus and infrastructure. I also extend my thanks to our esteemed Chancellor, Dr Shankar Acharya, whose guidance and encouragement continue to inspire us at every stage of our institutional journey. I am also thankful to the faculty, staff, and students of CUAP. The support and help I have received from them have been vital.

Thank you.

Jai Hind!