

Welcome Address By



DR SAVITA, IFS

Vice Chancellor,
Forest Research Institute Deemed University
& Director
Forest Research Institute



CONVOCATION
FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE
DEEMED UNIVERSITY 2017

Hon'ble Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Dr. Harsh Vardhan ji, Shri A. N. Jha, Secretary Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Shri Siddhanta Das, DG Forests and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Dr. S.C. Gairola Chancellor of the FRI University, Members of the Board of Management and Academic Council of FRI Deemed University, Heads of Sister Organizations, Distinguished guests, research scholars, students, ladies & gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure in extending a very warm welcome you all to the 4th Convocation of FRI Deemed University.

It is a memorable occasion and a land mark for all of us to have our esteemed Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan ji amongst us today as the Chief Guest for the Convocation of FRI University. Sir, the FRI/ICFRE fraternity feels greatly honoured and privileged for having your gracious presence on this occasion and join me in expressing our gratitude. On their behalf and on my own, I welcome you, Sir, the occasion holds even more significant since it is yours first visit to the Forest Research Institute. We look forward to having your advice, directions and blessings on this great occasion.

I am delighted to have the gracious presence of Shri A. N. Jha, Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, on this auspicious day. The FRI university fraternity warmly welcomes you, sir.

I am happy to take this opportunity for extending a very warm also welcome to Shri Siddhanta Das, Director General (Forests) and Special Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for gracing this occasion by his presence.

I also welcome all the eminent guests present here today, Members of the FRI University Academic Council, Members of Board of Management, the scholars, the students and the scholars and well as students being awarded medals and degrees, all the other members of FRI-ICFRE family, Senior officers from sister Organizations and friends from the Press and Media on this auspicious occasion.

The Forest Research Institute has a distinguished history of more than 100 years. It made a humble beginning as Forest School established in 1878. Initially named as the Imperial Forest Research Institute, FRI came into being in 1906. Later renamed as Forest Research Institute and Colleges. FRI, today is one of the institutes under Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education. Recognizing the institute as an institution of excellence in the field of forestry research, education extension and allied disciplines, it was conferred the status of Deemed University in December 1991, under section 3 of U.G.C. Act. Since then, the institute has been contributing immensely to the development of Forestry Education.

At present, the FRI University offers four (4) Masters programme in the form of M.Sc.in Forestry, Wood Science & Technology, Environment Management and Cellulose & Paper Technology. The student intake in all the M.Sc. programmes is 38 each except in M.Sc Cellulose & Paper Technology where the strength is 20. The total numbers of students enrolled at present are 277.

The FRI University also offers Ph.D. Programmes in 23 different disciplines related to forestry. The Forest Research Institute (Deemed) University has adopted the procedure of UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M. Phil/Ph.D. Degree), Regulation, 2016 with effect from 03.03.2017. The programme is not only confined to the University campus but is also running across the nation through 18 centers which are primarily

CONVOCATION

FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE
DEEMED UNIVERSITY 2017

the institutes under ICFRE and other institutions of national importance like Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Wildlife Institute of India, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, etc. The first Ph.D. Degree was awarded by the FRI University in 1995. Since then, the University has 836 Ph.Ds to its credit. At present there are 214 research scholars registered with the University across the nation.

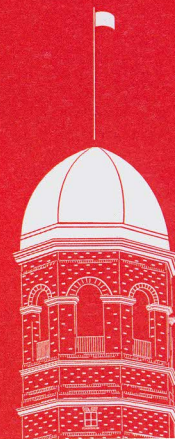
FRI University primarily functions as residential university with a few students being day scholars. The students enrolled in this university represent the entire country giving the university a pride of place among the National Educational Institutions of the country. The University also regularly attracts foreign students to its M.Sc. and Ph.D programmes. Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India has decided to award 10 Scholarships per year to the students of SAARC nations for pursuing Post-Graduate programmes at Forest Research Institute (Deemed) University. At present 20 students from SAARC nations and 3 other foreign nationals are enrolled in university's academic programmes. In today's convocation function a total of 1657 students will today be conferred with various awards including 1065 MSc students, 127 PG Diploma students and 465 PhD research scholars. These graduates include....wood science & Technology,forestry, environment and.... Cellulose & paper technology.

Speaking about the Significant Initiatives undertaken by FRI University,

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am happy to announce that FRI Deemed University has successfully implemented the Choice Based Credit System in its Curriculum. The curriculum is regularly revised and updated by the Board of Studies and Academic Council of the University to keep it at par with international standards. The last revision of the curriculum was carried out in March 2016 and started implementing in Academic year 2016-17.

A university can grow successfully only when research and teaching mesh together seamlessly i.e. one without the other is incomplete. Therefore we at the FRI University have ensured the development of a collaborative environment conducive to learning, exposure to the best international practices and promotion of innovation and creativity. Being a research institute, the faculty of FRI is actively engaged in research as well as teaching. FRI is a largest institution of its kind having experts of all major and minor subjects of forestry located in one campus itself. Besides this, experts are engaged from ICFRE and other sister organizations as a resource persons. The available research infrastructure, expertise of scientists and repositories of huge information at FRI is accessible to the students. Faculties are supervising the Ph.D. scholars and undertaking research projects at the national and international level. To encourage Academic excellence, the FRI University also offers two scholarships per program per year to the toppers of each programme. The amount of scholarship per student per annum is Rs.11000/semester. Institutional collaboration for excellence has also been done with Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany (GAUG), Institute of Forestry, Pokhara, Nepal, Indian Institute of Management Kashipur, India and CPPRI, Saharanpur, India.

The library of the University is recognized as National Forest Library and information Center which is reputed to have vast treasure of books and journals on forestry and allied subjects. The library is completely digitalized and has a collection of 1.2 lakh books, 32000 bounded periodicals and subscribes 118 Indian and 150 foreign periodicals with reprographic facility. The database is available through **Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)** to the users through campus network.



The FRI University has a fully functional placement cell consisting of a placement officer and student representatives from each class. The cell interacts to prospective employers and provides assistance in placement of desiring and the deserving students. Various industries/organizations visit the campus for campus interviews. On an average 50% of the students get placements through the campus interviews. I feel proud to inform that, in case of M.Sc. Wood Science & Technology, the placement is 100%.

Our objective is to promote all round development of the students and to contribute significantly to the sphere of knowledge. The University campus is always alive with the activities of the students and the research scholars. Beyond the class room teaching, wide range of co-curricular activities are organised like seminars, conferences, workshops, guest lectures, Term paper, Divisional and industrial attachments, field tours to give them field exposure, so that student can maintain pace with the current trend of the field and market. Apart from this, the students also involve themselves in extracurricular activities such sports, social as well as cultural activities. We have student club to organize these activities. Since it affects innovation & development we provide our students enabling atmosphere and working culture as a policy. The entire campus eagerly awaits for these activities as the skills of our students in these functions are highly appreciated.

We have also established **Academic Incubation** cell to support, motivate and coordinate thoughts of the University students from "**Techno-innovation to techno-entrepreneurship**".

The academic departments of the University have organized a number of national and international seminars, conferences and workshops in their respective domains as a part of the routine academic and intellectual exercises. Special mention may be made to the latest event of the 19th Commonwealth Forestry Conference from 3rd to 7th April, 2017 in the campus, under the aegis of the MOEF & CC, Government of India and Commonwealth Forestry Association wherein the students of FRI University contributed immensely at various platforms, and I am still receiving communication from various delegates applauding the contribution of our students in making this conference successful.

The FRI Deemed University has constituted the various committees for safe, secure and stress free environment in the University to the students of the FRI Deemed University. Some of these committees are :

- Anti-Sexual Harassment Committee
- Committee to look after the complaints of caste discrimination of SC/ST students
- Student Counseling Centre
- Student's Welfare & Disciplinary Committee
- Anti-Ragging Committee

On the issue of Alumni Association, I would like to inform this august gathering that the the University is making efforts to remain in touch with its alumni through its dynamic website (www.fridu.edu.in) and trying to keep track of the developments that may be taking place in their lives. University has taken an initiative to create a list of all its students/alumni, for which the outgoing students are encouraged to register themselves in Alumni association webpage of the FRI University. These networks prove very useful for the current students as the alumni gives invaluable inputs in shaping their careers and helping them wherever necessary. The passing out

CONVOCATION

FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE 2017
DEEMED UNIVERSITY



students and research scholars shall automatically be eligible to become the members of the association. The University looks forward to its alumni with great pride and hope. May all of them be successful in their endeavours.

As regards future plans, the university aspires to become the first-rank forestry based Research University in the world with focused action plan to meet the challenges of forestry and related areas. The University would like to grow as a full-fledged Central University of Forestry and Environment in coming times with **NAAC accreditation**. Introducing of two new Master programmes such as M.Sc. Aroma Technology and MBA in Natural Resource Management is under process. Besides this, university is also planning to expand its horizon through the off campus centers in research institutes of ICFRE. Strengthening Infrastructure, Teaching departments, Laboratories, development of faculty, staff and students, Academic & Industrial collaboration, Placement & incubation cell are also on priority. The efforts are on for putting in place the online or cashless financial system. University is also working on the development and improvement in the university's web pages with features for the better connectivity with the world.

In the end, I would like to appreciate the role played by each and every faculty and staff of the institute in contributing towards the growth of the FRI University and its students. The alumni of the institute are our proud contribution to the development of the country and the society in general and forestry sector in particular.

I would like to quote Guru Rabindra Nath Tagore, education means enabling the minds to find out that ultimate truth which emancipates us from the bondage of dust and gives us the wealth of not things but of inner light, not of power but of love, making this truth its even and giving expression to it.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I welcome you all once again.

and

Thank you very much.

JAI HIND
JAI BHARAT