



**Rajiv Gandhi University  
of Knowledge Technologies**



# **Convocation**

**Monday, August 4, 2014**



**Convocation Report by**  
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Vice-Chancellor  
Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies



RGUKT Nuzvid



RGUKT RK Valley



RGUKT Basar

His Excellency, Shri E.S.L Narasimhan garu;, the Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Sri N. Chandrababu Naidu garu the hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Prof Raj Reddy, Hon'ble Chancellor of RGUKT, esteemed members of the Governing Council, faculty colleagues, staff of **RGUKT**, graduating first batch students, esteemed guests, media personnel, ladies and gentlemen:

I extend a warm welcome to all of you to the first ever Annual Convocation of the Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies, on this solemn morning of 4<sup>th</sup> Aug 2014.

The annual convocation is a very special and a mile stone event in the history of RGUKT, for the proud graduates, their equally proud parents, **to me, my faculty and staff.**

So far at RGUKT, all through, it has been an act of tireless creation, including faculty, infrastructure, laboratories, education system and academic culture. On this great occasion, I wish to place on record RGUKT's achievements during the last six years since inception.

### **Mission made possible:**

The University was started in 2008 with the annual intake of 6000 students, a phenomenally large and unheard of intake by any standards set solely to provide the opportunity to the top 1% of those passing class X from **mainly the rural schools of Andhra Pradesh. I am not aware** of any other University in this country that has ever started in this grand scale. From

2010 onwards the intake was reduced to 3000 students. Last year the student strength rose to 24,000 at 8000 per campus. Personally for me, when I was invited to be the first full time Vice Chancellor of this ambitious University with its laudable vision, I accepted the assignment, treating it as a privilege, as a worthy opportunity, and as a challenging assignment. I was aware that through this mighty project Government proposed to serve the noble cause of imparting high quality Technical Education to rural meritorious who are deprived of opportunities both in terms of accessibility and means.

With the first batch coming out successfully now, we could perhaps demonstrated that the dreams of the Government have been adequately fulfilled. This is despite the formidable scale with which RGUKT has started. I feel things will only improve from now on at RGUKT, in terms of offered quality of Technical Education. This in turn should result in RGUKT having a brand name for itself as the producer of Engineering Graduates with good academic standards and ethics..

### **Admission Trend**

While during the initial years, 5 applicants were competing for a seat at RGUKT, in the 2014 admissions it is 10 per seat. The improving trend is also evidenced by the growing student successes at national and international fora.

During the last year's B.Tech admissions, the women population amongst those selected crossed the 50% mark and in the 2014 admissions, the women population rose to

54%, perhaps another uniqueness amongst engineering institutions. I congratulate the girl students for excelling in studies.

### **Academic Programmes RGUKT:**

**The Undergraduate Programme:** The 6-Year integrated programme comprises of a 2-year part of Pre-University programme and a 4-year for B.Tech programme. The 6-year integrated B.Tech programme is offered in the following 6 engineering majors:

Chemical Engineering

Civil Engineering

Computer Science and Engineering

Electronics & Communications Engineering

Metallurgical & Materials Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

Apart from a Major in an engineering disciplines, there is scope for doing a Minor in another branch of engineering or Science or Management or Humanities and Social Sciences including classical performing arts streams in each campus. Flexibility built in the curriculum is along the lines of best of the world universities and is mainly to improve the motivation of students in studies.

**The Post Graduate Programme:** A 2-year M.Tech programme, as grant-in-aid / self finance course, in Computational Engineering has been introduced from the

academic year 2011-12. The Course has been designed by incorporating advanced computing techniques and tools, to suit the people seeking teaching / research as career in computational Engineering / Sciences, competing with world class curriculum. Selection is through GATE score and Interview and our own selection examination with high cut off score.

**The Doctoral Programme:** The PhD programme of RGUKT was started in 2011 and it is presently open only for the non-PhD faculty members of the University. Eminent Professors from top rated Engineering, Science and Humanities Institutions in the country are helping as co-supervisors. The rules governing the award of Ph.D ensure quality at par with the top-rated Institutions of excellence.

### **The Education System:**

A hybrid mode involving learning-by-doing and conventional teaching has been put in practice for engineering part of the programme. We used video lectures from the best of faculty of the country in our class rooms with the interactive part and live lecturing done by the bright young faculty of RGUKT who were recruited mainly from the premier institutions of the country. The education system at RGUKT is ICT based and perhaps it is the first University in the country to adopt ICT for educating rural students and to pass a batch successfully in the system. Also, perhaps it is the first University to adopt the much praised and prestigious NPTEL content apart from using video courses produced by RGUKT on its own, formally in the class rooms.

Keeping in mind Quality of Education offered, we have adopted the following innovative approaches to benefit students:.

- Very strong curricula at par with the IITs. Every student of RGUKT does four courses in Computer Science, gets an extra edge in IT.
- Teaching is done through video lectures from best of faculty in the country and class room interaction through bright faculty who are selected through a stringent selection process.
- Set up excellent laboratories and the curriculum is designed to have strong laboratory practice and hands on experience for students.
- Adopting good academic regulations and examination standards at par with the IITs.
- Continued orientation of the faculty and students at large towards creating a targeted academic culture.
- Though RGUKT is a new born, it offers a lot of flexibility to students and scope is provided to a student to do a Minor in another discipline of engineering, science and Humanities including classical performing arts, alongside a Major in a branch of engineering. In the first batch, as many as 1300 have earned a Minor.
- Internship at the end of pre-final year to expose the students to practice of Engineering

**Rising Quality Faculty:**

Realizing that faculty of high quality is the most important resource needed in building institutions of high calibre, we adopted innovative methods in raising extremely competent faculty at RGUKT and the present strength at Assistant Professor cadre and above stands at 450 with more than 90% of them obtained by tapping the cream of PhD and Postgraduate engineering students from premier institutions of the country like the IITs and IISc , NITs and other Universities of eminence.

In spite of shortfall of faculty, sponsored research activity is initiated and the first of the sponsored research projects of the University have been obtained. During the last year about 100 research papers were published in reputed international and national journals and conferences. The coming years would see an exponential growth in both of these areas.

**Creation of Advanced Laboratory Infrastructure:**

RGUKT has developed modern laboratory facilities in each campus in all disciplines with latest and advanced equipment to expose students to this equipment and see that they gain best of practical knowledge in their respective discipline. Following are some of recently acquired advanced equipment in each campus:

Computer controlled distillation pilot plant, liquid absorption pilot plant, Fixed bed catalysis pilot setup, Solid fluid adsorption pilot plant, 1000 KN Universal Testing Machine,

Long computer controlled multi-purpose tilting flume, Computer controlled advance environmental hydrology system, total Organic carbon analyzer, Atomic absorption spectrophotometer with Graphite furnace, MIMO FPGA and DSP boards, VLSI tools, Rohde & Schwarz Spectrum and Network Analyzer, Tektronix DSOs, Spectral Analyzers, Synthesized signal generators, X-Ray Powder Diffractometer systems, 100 KN Servo Hydraulic fatigue testing machine, Merlin Compact Field Emission Scanning Electronic Micro Scope, Friction Stir Welding Unit, Kistler Dynamo meter, CNC wire cut EDM machine, High Precision Lathe Machine (HMT), High end Universal Milling Machine (BFW), Coordinate Measuring Machine (Carlzeis), Water cooled multi cylinder 4-stroke diesel engine test rig, water cooled single cylinder variable compression ratio test rig Automated TIG Welding equipment and several other similar equipment.

### **Building Infrastructure:**

Within a short span, the University built well planned and designed infrastructure of 200 to 2.20 lakh sq m at each campus at a total expenditure of about Rs1000 Cr in to meet the educational and residential requirements including, administrative building, classroom complex, modern laboratories, hostels, 32 bedded hospital, 150 semi e-class rooms in the three campuses. Presently the University is engaged in building the infrastructure for departmental buildings, library, play fields and auditoria at the three campuses.



**State-of-art IT Infrastructure:**

Each of the RGUKT campuses is equipped with state of art IT infrastructure to support the ICT based education system. The facilities worth mentioning include,

- 450 semi e-class rooms connected by Gigabit Ethernet
- 25000 Laptops at one laptop to each student.
- Gigabit Connection through NMEICT .
- 30 Terabyte servers providing video lectures and online content.

**Establishment of a Center for Technology Innovation for Rural Sector:**

A Centre for Technology innovation for Rural Sector is being setup at the three campuses. About 20 – 30 students per campus from amongst the present graduates worked on projects relevant to rural sector and have successfully completed their BTech thesis part. Some students have expressed their desire to be entrepreneurs in this area.

An undergraduate course on cases of technology innovation suitable for rural areas is introduced and a large number of students from the present graduating batch underwent the same. A laboratory facility that caters to hands-on training on technology cases is being setup.

**Starting of Technology Incubators:**

Upon encouragement from the University, many students have started working towards coming out with innovative products

with the objective of creating technologies for marketing. In order to extend facilities to such students and to foster entrepreneurship, we have started technology incubators at the campuses to facilitate working by graduated alumni.

Efforts towards obtaining venture funding support would be put up. Already 50 graduates from those who are going to be awarded BTech degrees have applied for availing this facility. Three courses relevant to entrepreneurship have been introduced into the curricula of RGUKT

#### **MoU with Aalborg University Denmark for Research Collaboration:**

RGUKT has defined its thrust areas of research and is keen on encouraging research in the focused and other areas of high societal relevance. RGUKT strongly believes that collaborative research fills the vital gaps in certain areas and brings out the best of both the worlds. In this endeavour RGUKT entered into a MOU with Aalborg University Denmark on Feb 27, 2011.

#### **Organization of Conferences/Workshops and S & T Fair:**

**GISFI Standardization Series Meeting – 2011:** RGUKT became an institutional member of GISFI and hosted its Fifth Annual International CTIF workshop - 5th GISFI Standardisation Series Meeting as organizing chair from June 20th to 22nd, 2011 with the participation of nearly 120 engineers/scientists from all over the world

**ICLA International Conference – 2012:** The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Luminescence and its Applications (ICLA-2012) was organized by RGUKT in collaboration with IICT (Indian Institute of Chemical Technology), Society for Information Display (SID India Chapter) and Luminescence Society of India from February 7-10, 2012. About 200 participants including 80 from abroad attended the conference.

**Science and Technology Fair at Basara:** RGUKT successfully organized a grand Science & Technology Fair at its Basara campus during March 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and planning to make it a regular feature at its three campuses to motivate our students to be creative and make them foster creativeness. There are 200 models including 130 working models, besides a number of poster presentations and other technological demonstrations. As many as 10,000 school children especially from Adilabad, Nizamabad and Karimnagar visited the Science and Technology fair during the two days.

Some of the numerous workshops conducted include the following:

- “Advances in X-ray Powder Diffractometry and Scanning Electron Microscopy” on 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 at Hyderabad.
- Induction and Orientation programme to the newly Joined faculty with lectures by eminent professors, every year since 2010.

- Orientation Programmes on Office Procedures to staff of RGUKT.
- Workshop on Design of Multi-storey Buildings held on 27th and 28th April 2014.
- Workshop on Automobile Anatomy held from 25th to 28th August 202)
- Workshop program on “Animation Technology” conducted between August 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> 2012.
- “Gurajada’s 150<sup>th</sup> year Jayanthi Celebrations” at the three campuses in 2012
- A Three day National Seminar on “Telugu Sahityam - Mahilalu Balala Samasyalu” during 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2014.
- To create awareness among the students, RGUKT started the practice of conducting programmes such as National Science day, National Mathematics day and Science fairs in the commemoration of our great national icons.

## **2.8 All Round Student Activities:**

The BTech curriculum has a component of Extra Academic Activity (EAA) which includes NCC, NSS, Sports, Physical Training, Yoga, Kuchipudi dance, Karnatic vocal and Mridangam. Apart from EAA, a student is encouraged to participate in sports, social and cultural activities, take up creative pursuits, viz., writing, dramatics and service oriented activities. Students are encouraged to work on S&T projects

and also participate in service oriented activities, social and cultural events.

There is a separate Human Values course and it is mandatory for every student to undergo the same. Students also carry on campaigns for voter awareness, literacy, blood donation apart from NSS activities

**Webcasting of Poll Proceeds in the Elections:** RGUKT students have been assisting the Election Commission in web casting in different polls and by polls since 2011 in maintaining transparency in the polling process through webcasting of the poll proceeds in sensitive polling booths. During the last general elections as many as 6000 students from all the campuses participated along with the University laptops.

### **Glimpses of Student Performance Achievements:**

The academic excellence has already been visible in several ways through the extremely good performance shown, the numerous achievements and awards our first batch students have secured at National/International level. Glimpses of the same are as follows:

- Our students have excelled in competitive examinations like GATE-2014. Of the 1000 students reported appeared, 592 students have got qualified and many of them have already secured admission in premier institutions like the IITs and IISc. As per newspaper

reports, of the top 10 ranks reported from the state, about 6 are from RGUKT. Mr. Thaduri Navin got the **All India 8th rank** in GATE 2014 (ECE) and there are several others securing top ranks such as 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, ..... Mr G Sriramulu Naidu of Nuziveedu campus got the **all India 2nd rank** in the CSIR JRF examination.

- At the Ekalavya programme of IIT Bombay that provides financial support for internships, RGUKT students alone secured 14 fellowships of the country wide 121 with the Basara and Nuziveedu campuses bagging 6 and 5 positions respectively securing the top two positions in the country, ahead of all the other institutions.
- Every year a good number of students have been participating and winning several prizes.
  - a. Our students have been regularly winning prizes at AMES space settlement design contests conducted by NASA. This year, 34 students participated at the Space Conference at Los Angeles, USA and received their awards.
  - b. Two students of RGUKT have been awarded the prestigious Dr. Srinivasa Iyengar Ramanujan Shield and Cash prize in the documentary test on factorial themes that was conducted by Dr. Srinivasa Iyengar Ramanujan institute, Hyderabad.
  - c. The book “Pharaoh and the King” authored by Mr Dasari, a student was published by Author House

Publication, USA. Several other students have written Shatakams, collections of 100 poems in Telugu.

- d. The students of RGUKT excelled in sports events, other competitions including at Techno-management competitions and won prizes at national and state level competitions in large numbers.

### **The Graduating First Batch of Students:**

In a short while from now, we are going to confer MTech degree in Computational engineering for the first two batches and our flagship 6-year BTech degree on 4619 students of Chemical, Civil, Computer Science & Engg, Electronics and Communication Engg, Mechanical Engg and Metallurgical & Materials Engg branches including those in absentia. The academic performance of the students has been found to be excellent in spite of their rural background and challenging examination standards. Nearly 33% of them got Distinction with a CGPA of more than 8.00 on a 10 point scale and 65% of them got first class.

Out of the graduating students, as many as 1300 have earned a Minor also. Perhaps for the first time in the history of modern India, students have earned a Minor in Telugu/Kuchipudi/Mridangam/Carnatic vocal while majoring in a branch of engineering.

**Campus Placements:**

RGUKT established four Career Development and Placement Cells (CDPC). During 2013-14, CDPC has contacted more than 2000 companies many companies conducted campus recruitments and offered 826 jobs to the students of RGUKT, so far and the placement activity is continuing. Though they do not visit the campus for the first few batches, companies like Infosys, Tech Mahindra and TCS, have visited RGUKT campuses and recruited students in large numbers. By the end of this month the number of recruitments is expected to touch four figures. The number of companies likely to visit the campus is expected to increase for the second batch itself significantly as some of the companies have agreed to visit the campus from 2014 onwards.

The important recruiters for the first batch include reputed companies like Amazon, MRF, TCS, Tech Mahindra, IBM, Infosys, Infotech (Cyient) and ITC Ltd.

**Concluding Remarks:**

RGUKT has a large number of students coming from all places of the states of AP and Telangana State, they are willing to take up challenges and can volunteer to help in technology as well as people-centric campaigns of the two state governments.

I take this opportunity to thank our Chancellor, Prof K C Reddy, Prof Balakrishnan, and the other esteemed members



of the Governing Council including its former members for the constant and excellent guidance and support rendered.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sri Ganta Srinivasa Rao, Minister of HRD, AP government and Sri G Jagadish Reddy, Minister for Higher education, Telangana State for pledging support for the cause of the University. I also thank the involved former Chief Ministers and the concerned Ministers for their kind support rendered to the University.

All through the endeavour of realizing RGUKT, it has been a world of endless challenges. The achievements are as a result of creative and coordinated efforts of the administration, faculty and staff in a spirited and extraordinary performance and I also take this opportunity to congratulate and thank them. The realization wouldn't have been possible but for the sharing of the responsibilities at different levels.

Finally, it is an exciting moment for those who are here to receive degrees, I heartily congratulate them for their success and for making all of us proud.

We are deeply honoured by the gracious and inspiring presence of His Excellency Sri E S L Narasimhan garu on this historical moment. We are privileged to have the distinguished presence of his leadership, Sri Chandrababu Naidu garu on this great occasion.

**Thank you all for gracing the occasion.**