TWENTY FIFTH CONVOCATION - 2023

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR OPEN UNIVERSITY
HYDERABAD

ACCREDITED WITH GRADE B++ NAAC

25th

TWENTY FIFTH CONVOCATION

ADDRESS

Prof. K. SEETHARAMA RAO
Vice-Chancellor



Thursday, 28th December, 2023 at 4.00 p.m.

Venue: Bhavanam Venkatram Auditorium

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University

Hyderabad, Telangana

Twenty Fifth Convocation

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Report on the Activities of the University
2022 - 23

by

Prof. K. Seetharama Rao
Vice-Chancellor

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY

Honourable Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, Governor of Telangana and Lt. Governor of Puducherry, Distinguished Chief Guest Prof. Mamidala Jagadeesh Kumar, Chairman, University Grants Commission, Esteemed recipient of D. Litt (Honoris Causa) Prof. V.S. Prasad, Members of the Executive Council, Distinguished Invitees and guests, Representatives from the Print and Electronic Media; Faculty and Staff of the University, Recipients of various Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates and Gold Medals, Ladies and Gentlemen, I offer my wholehearted greetings to all the candidates who are getting their degrees and the winners of Gold Medals and Book Prizes.

On behalf of the Members of the Executive Council, Teaching and Non-Teaching staff of the University and on my own behalf, I consider it a great honour and privilege to welcome each and every one of you present here on this momentous occasion of the Twenty Fifth Convocation of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University. We are indeed honoured by the gracious presence of our Honourable Chancellor, Dr (Smt.) Tamilisai Soundararajan, who is presiding over today's function. It is our good fortune to have Madam Chancellor who has been a continuous source of inspiration, guidance and

support to the University. I am extremely pleased to welcome our beloved Chancellor to the University. I have no hesitation to say that you are a most approachable and pleasing personality and have left your own mark in guiding the state administration. I am sure that our students are inspired and motivated to follow your dynamic leadership in the service of the people of the state.

Honourable Chancellor, It is a great honour and privilege to have two eminent educational administrators of the country on the dais, the Chief Guest of the day's function, Professor Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, University Grants Commission and Professor V.S.Prasad, the recipient of D.Litt (Honoris Causa) Former Director NAAC and a renowned ODL expert. Both of them have made outstanding contributions in their own areas of teaching, research and expansion viz., conventional and Open, Distance and Flexible learning respectively. I take the opportunity to welcome and thank them profusely for their presence at this Convocation.

Madam Chancellor, I wish to draw your attention to the rapid strides the University has made in the last two years and the spirit with which Dr. BRAOU delivers education to the door step of its learners making a substantial contribution to the field of higher education in terms of numbers, thus increasing the GER of the nation and it is with a sense of pride and accomplishment that I wish to state that the University has contributed around 17 percent to the Gross Enrollment Ratio

of the State of Telangana and emerged as an epicenter for Open and Distance Learning. I would not be digressing if I say that the University caters to the economically and socially-deprived sections of the society and strives to mitigate the extreme inequalities of educational access to these sections.

Today, as I stand before you to present the summary of our advancement through the last academic year 2022-23, I experience a mixed feeling; as during the reporting period of this Twenty fifth Convocation, we were in the best of our times and also experienced the worst of times. Our journey has witnessed immense ups and downs; while a casual look at the University environs reveals a sea-change in infrastructural facilities and the Teaching- learning strategies adopted, what are not seen are heartaches experienced when things did not turn out as we expected in certain cases. This period marked the beginning of a new phase in the history of the University. The juncture at which we stood in this year was coupled with many challenges some surmountable while some were un-surmountable. It was during this period that we undertook the process of getting ourselves accredited by NAAC. The rigor of the accreditation process was embraced and accepted by the faculty and the administrators in the right letter and spirit and they left no stone unturned to meet all the criterion requirements in right earnest; however, the resultant Grade of B++ was disheartening and discouraging and even became the reason for facing the bitterness of the regulatory authorities.

The underlying factor behind this Grade was the comparative shortage of teaching faculty in departments which was not in our control. The University, however, is still making efforts to improve on this score. It was at this crucial point that the good offices of the Honorable Chancellor and the UGC Chairman came to our rescue. I am extremely ever thankful to them from the bottom of my heart for their kind- hearted support to this University in its hour of extreme need.

I wish to place on record that at this Twenty- Fifth Convocation of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University 31,729 candidates are physically receiving their Degrees in various programs of the University and Forty Three Gold medals are being awarded and I am glad that the recipients' hard work and perseverance has made them see this momentous day which opens for them the doors of a bright career they richly and truly deserve. As the students go out to make a mark in their respective careers, I am sure this Degree will add much value to their pursuits. I wish them all the best in all their endeavours of translating their dreams into reality.

Madam Chancellor, please allow me to now present before you the Activities the University has undertaken during the Academic Year 2022-23 which has been a landmark year in the history of our University. As already mentioned, it was during this reporting period that the University was accredited by NAAC thus lending credence to all our academic pursuits and providing pathways for us to excel in all our endeavours.

DIRECTORATE OF ACADEMICS

The Directorate of Academics is the University's principal academic Division which implements statutory academic regulations and is responsible for maintaining standards of teaching, learning, education, instruction and development of programmes and courses. The Directorate is headed by a senior professor who manages the affairs of Faculties, Academic Programmes and instructional design of the materials produced by the University. The Directorate comprises five faculties viz., Faculty of Arts, Commerce, Education, Social Sciences and Science. The faculty members plans, design, develop and maintain various academic programmes of the University in accordance with the needs and requirements of the students and demands of the job market.

Revision/Restructure of P.G Programmes

As per the UGC Regulations 2022, the University has decided to restructure the existing P.G Programmes by migrating into the semester system with 80 credits as per the National Higher Educational Qualification Framework (NHEQF) from the Academic Year 2024-2025. It is also decided to follow the existing pattern of assignments for P.G Programmes i.e., 70:30 and to adopt online assignment submission and evaluation. The process has been initiated and is picking up momentum.

New Academic Programmes

The University has constituted an Academic Programme Planning and Monitoring Board (APPMB) to review the existing Programmes and examine the new proposals received by various departments for launching new programmes. In tune with this, the Directorate of Academics has received proposals to launch new programmes. The Department of Business Management is launching four (4) new Diploma Programs viz., P G Diploma in Financial Management; P G Diploma in Marketing Management; P G Diploma in Human Resource Management and P G Diploma in Operations Management. Similarly, the Department of Psychology is offering a Diploma in Psychological Counselling; the Department of Journalism & Mass Communication is offering a Diploma in Digital Journalism during this academic year, 2022-23. It is also proposed to start Diploma Programmes in other relevant areas.

Research Programmes

he University is offering Ph.D. Programmes in the Faculties since 2018 duly adhering to the UGC Minimum Standards and Procedures to Award Ph.D. Degrees with necessary approvals from the UGC. To ensure conformity with the standards scrupulously, the University established Research Cell, headed by a Coordinator, to coordinate the administrative and academic activities of the Ph. D. Programmes in consonance with UGC Regulations.

Memorial Lectures

To inculcate the spirit of holistic all-round development the University organizes commemorative lectures on eminent persons who have left an indelible mark in the path of development of the University. The memorial lectures organized during the year 2022-23 include:

(1) Prof. S. Bashiruddin Memorial Lecture on “Media Today in India” by Dr, K Ramachandra Murthy, Veteran Journalist on 06-02-2023,

(2) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture on “Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and OBC Communities” by Sri. B. S. Ramulu, Former Chairman, Telangana State B. C. Commission on 14-04-2023;

(3) Sri. P. V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Lecture on “Border Clashes and India China Relations” by Prof. Srikanth Kondapalli, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi on 30-06-2023,

(4) Prof. Acharya Kothapalli Jayashankar Memorial Lecture on “Unionization of State and Federalisation of Polity: Assumptions, Assertions and Aspirations” by Prof. G. Ram Reddy, Professor of Political Science, Central University of Andhra Pradesh, Ananthapuram, on 30-08-2022;

(5) Sri. Kaloji Narayana Rao Memorial Lecture on 07-09-2022 by Sri Darbhasayanam Srinivasacharya, Poet &

Writer on the topic “Kaloji Kavitvam Manava Viluvalu”;

(6) Prof. G. Ram Reddy Memorial Lecture on “Four Decades of India’s First Open University through the Past into the Future” by Prof. V. S Prasad, Formerly Vice-Chancellor (Acting) IGNOU, Vice-Chancellor, Dr, BRAOU & Director, NAAC on 09-12-2022,

(7) Narla Memorial Lecture on “Margadarshi Narla Venkateswara Rao”. By Sri Tankasala Ashok, Media Advisor to CM, on 06-12-2022.

Further, the University has had 21-Day Telangana Formation Day Celebrations from 2nd to 22nd June 2023 to mark the Decennial Year of Telangana State Formation. A Panel Discussion was held on 24th June, 2023 by inviting experts to speak on “The Telangana Growth Story”.

Extension Activity

In the context of issuance of notifications by TSPSC for Group-I and other exams, the University, realizing the dearth of Comprehensive Competitive Examinations Study material, has prepared and provided instructional materials to benefit the candidates preparing for competitive examinations.

Awards and Achievements

It is a matter of pride and prestige that the teachers of our University have received awards for their meritorious contribution to the field of education.

(1) Prof. Gunti Ravinder, Dept. of Political Science was awarded with Best Teacher award on by the Government of Telangana on 05th September, 2023,

(2) Prof. Pallavi Kabde, Dept. of Public Administration received the Excellence Award from the Forum of Public Administration, Maharashtra, 2022-2023

(3) Dr. Yadagiri Kambhampati, Department of Journalism & Mass Communication was honored with "Best Public Relations Counsellor Award for 2022" by PRSI, Hyderabad.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotstsav Celebrations

During the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotstsav Celebrations the various faculties of the University organised National Seminars/Webinars and Symposiums to commemorate successful completion of 40 years of the University and its dedication for the contribution to the GER of the state. The Dept of Public Administration of the University, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Public Administration, Telangana Regional Branch, organized Ten (10) "Pratibha Webinar Lecture Series by inviting senior IAS officers and successful IAS rank holders for benefit of the aspirants of Civil Services. Notable among these include: (1) Mr. Makarandu Manda, IAS, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Railways; (2) Ms. Arugula Sneha IAS.

Through Open Social Forum, the Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Economics organised Two lectures, one on "Rupai Viluva Patanam – Kaaranaalu mariyu Parinaamaalu" and the other on "Sankshema Pathakaalu: Uchitaalaa, Prostahakaalaa".

PROF. G. RAM REDDY CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (GRCR&D)

The Centre for Evaluation, established in 1987, upgraded as Prof G.Ram Reddy Academy for Distance Education (GRADE) in 2007 had a change in the nomenclature as Prof. G.Ram Reddy Centre for Research and Development (GRCR&D) to align with UGC guidelines came into operation from 10th November 2023. This Centre is akin to the Centre for Research and Development proposed by the UGC to look after the functions as stipulated in the guidelines. The Centre conducted a three - day workshop on 'Academic Research and Research Support' for the benefit of teaching staff and research scholars of the University by inviting Prof. B.Sudhakar Reddy, Honorary Director, ICSSR-SRC, Osmania University. About 60 Research Scholars and teaching staff participated in the Workshop organised in the blended mode.Under the aegis of GRCR&D the University is running its House Journal viz, JODL (Journal of Open Distance Learning) which has launched its second issue in July 2023. The Centre has also prepared and presented a brochure showcasing its activities to the NAAC peer team which visited the University campus during July 2023.

CENTRE FOR INTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT (CIQA)

The University had established the Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) in 2010 to look after the maintenance of the quality of study material and other services. The University is aligning with the detailed guidelines of UGC-DEB issued from time to time as a part of ODL Regulations and operationalization of CIQA activities. In the recent past CIQA has infused new rigor and dynamism into the system by developing pathways for research, innovation and entrepreneurship that would facilitate reshaping of CIQA activities in the University.

CIQA is made responsible for maintenance of quality of academic activities and services provided to the learners by the University and obtaining feedback from all stakeholders for further improvement. It co-ordinates with UGC-DEB for obtaining course permissions and ensures compliance with UGC-DEB regulations. It takes care of preparation and documentation of Annual Plans and Annual Reports and places them before the Statutory Bodies at the end of each academic session and submits the same to the Regulatory authorities as and when required. As a part of its activities CIQA has organized lecture series and conducted research studies for the benefit of the Teaching staff and other heads of branches responsible for initiating qualities measures in their respective areas.

During this academic year, CIQA had organized two events under the 'Quality Assurance Lecture Series', one on 4th July 2022 on "Imparting Quality Skill Education through Open Universities-Issues and Challenges" by Prof. Rajan M Welukar and the other, a symposium on the theme "Bridging the Educational Divide" on 23rd August 2022.

As a part of its regular activities CIQA has conducted System- based Research Studies on:

(1) "Expectation and Perception of UG students of Dr. BRAOU";

(2) A Feedback Study Report on the User Friendliness of the Revised University Website;

(3) A Study on Impact of Socio-Economic Factor on Student's Progression in Dr. BRAOU;

CIQA has also published, under quality assurance series, Research Reports on:

(1) "Imparting Quality Skill Education through Open Universities-Issues and Challenges" –by Prof. Rajan M Welukar,

(2) "Open Distance Learning in India-Reflections on Practices and Future Perspectives" by Prof. V.S Prasad

(3) "Reaching the Unreached-Education for Social Justice" in Dr. BRAOU

As a part of NAAC accreditation, it prepared and submitted a Report on Institutional Information for Quality Assessment (IIQA) to NAAC on 03-11-2023 and prepared a Self-Study Report (SSR) with the help of Administrators, Teachers and Non-Teachers and submitted the same to NAAC on 07-01-2023, facilitated Data Verification and Validation (DVV) and clarifications and Learner Satisfaction Survey were submitted on 10-04-2023. The NAAC Peer Team visited the University from 24th to 26th July, 2023 and the University received NAAC certification for its first cycle and was awarded B++ with 2.96 CGPA. The University applied for reassessment on 16-09-2023.

CENTER FOR ONLINE EDUCATION AND LEARNING (COEL)

The University, realises the need for integration of new technologies in teaching-learning process, and poised to venture into online learning in tune with initiatives of New Education Policy 2020, for improving access, equity and quality in higher education by technology interventions. Towards this end, the University has established the “Centre for Online Education & Learning (COEL) in July, 2022, to align with National Digital initiatives to provide affordable and quality education for anyone, anywhere and with anytime access. The Centre was formally inaugurated by Prof. Asha Kanwar, President of Commonwealth of Learning, Vancouver, Canada on 5th August, 2022 and within a short time it has been

bestowed with a very prestigious project for 'Implementation of Open Educational Resources (OER) at BRAOU" by the Commonwealth Education Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), New Delhi. As a part of this project COEL has organised several Capacity Building programmes and trained faculty members in developing OER based courses on Moodle LMS and the Library staff on establishing the D-Space and created an OER Repository and Institutional Repository. The significant outcome of this project is that 7 OER based courses for online/ blended learning have been developed on Moodle LMS by the faculty across the disciples and also in multiple languages. Also 8 Micro credential courses have been developed in regional languages, like Telugu, Hindi and Urdu apart from English. BRAOU is the first Open University to develop these courses in 4 different languages.

LEARNER SUPPORT SERVICES BRANCH (LSSB)

Learner Support Services Branch (LSSB) is responsible for the admissions into various programmes offered by the University; management of Regional Centres (RCs) and Learner Support Centres (LSCs); conduct of contact-cum-counselling classes, preparation of academic calendar, and coordination with other branches for smooth functioning of the system, etc. This Branch has conducted a series of orientation Programmes on Learner Support Centre Administration and provision of effective services for Coordinators and JACTs of all Regional Centres and Learner Support Centres on (1) 03-

09-2023 covering 55 Learner Support Centres; (2) on 10-09-2022 covering 17 centres; (3) 1 on 2-09-2022 covering 19 Centres; (4) on 16-09-2022 covering 58 centres and (5) on 19-09-2022 covering 39 centres respectively covering a total of 179 centres under the University jurisdiction.

Learner Enrolment to Different Programmes during 2022-23

The LSSB has enrolled a total of 1,20,020 learners into different programmes of the University for the academic year 2022-23, showing the unstinting confidence that the general public has in BRAOU. Of the enrolled, a majority of learners, numbering 69,641 (58%) hail from rural background whereas urban learners constitute 50,379. Out of the learners enrolled women constitute 55,582 accounting for 41% of total learners. Similarly 1257 learners are persons with disabilities; 120 are Prisoners and 23 learners are Transgender. Of the total learners enrolled, their social background reveals that 61196 learners belong to backward classes, 28,896 to Scheduled Castes and 14,044 to the Scheduled Tribes. The above figures of learner enrolment and categories of learners, the University is serves to point to the access and affordability of the University Programmes. The University has established Learner Support Centres in backward regions, remote rural and tribal areas to cater the higher education needs of either deprived areas/sections; for the benefit of defence personnel and their families; or exclusive centres for the benefit of women.

Active learning was made possible through "**Blended mode of Learning"** from University Head Quarters from the academic year 2020-21, and this mode of learning continued for the academic year 2022-23. LSSB entered into an agreement with TCS for conducting online admissions and successfully conducted online admissions into B.Ed. , B.Ed.(Spl) and MBA Programmes.

DEAN, STUDENT AFFAIRS & CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

The Office of the Dean, Student Affairs is established to ensure speedy, timely, quality services and information to the Learners, both at Headquarters, Regional Centers and Learner Support Centers. The Dean takes care of addressing learners' doubts by use of technology or by taking recourse to Radio-conferencing, Video-conferencing and sometimes telephonically. The Dean, Student Affairs maintains a Students' (grievance Box,' at Headquarters at Learner Support Services Branch, and encourages students to drop their grievances therein, so that the necessary feedback is provided to the University authorities to take appropriate action/policy initiatives as required.The office of the Dean, Student Affairs, conducts periodical surveys/interviews with students at both Headquarters and Learner Support Centres, for better understanding of the problems of learners. This helps in taking corrective measures and policy initiatives which can enhance quality services of the university.

Placement Cell

The University has established the Placement Cell in 2022, with an aim to guide the students on various careers and competitive opportunities. The placement cell is intended to provide the learners of the University more access to employment opportunities both in the government sector, NGOs and private sector and numerous multinational corporate companies. The students registered at placement cell are entitled for placement assistance, counselling for employment and even self-employment. The placement cell acts as an interface between the industry and the students and enables the students to select their career opportunities. It facilitates the selection process of all the companies, and associates with corporate and organizations to provide suitable jobs for candidates pursuing their degrees from the university.The placement cell conducts On-campus Interview Programmes, Off-campus Interview Programmes and Job Fairs. During the academic year 2022-23 leading employers in Pharma field like Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Mahindra & Mahindra Automotive manufacturer Pvt. Ltd. have conducted drives in the University campus.

E-governance: TOWARDS A PAPERLESS BRAOU

E-office is a step forward towards paperless and automated administration. With an aim to significantly improve operational efficiency, bring transparency and better visibility in overall processes, DRBRAOU has initiated the process of e-office

implementation across all the branches of the Universities. In order to functionalize the e-Office Project, the University has deployed and strengthened the hardware and software requirements and initiated measures to impart training to all its employees in e-Office through the Centre for Staff Training and Development. The University has made the e-Office implementation mandatory since November 2022 and all the files of all the branches are moved through online successfully.

DIRECTORATE OF MATERIALS AND PUBLICATIONS (DMP)

The Directorate of Materials & Publications Branch is one of the important branches of the University. It is headed by a Director and consists of three main sections viz. purchase, printing and dispatch of University study material. It takes care of Annual Maintenance Contracts (AMC) and Insurance of University Assets, Computers, Printers, Scanners, & Xerox Machines. The Purchase Section of the DMP procures stationery and other equipment at economical and competitive rates to supply to various branches within the University, Regional Coordination Centres and Study Centres of the University. The Printing Section looks after printing of University study material pertaining to various programmes of the University, other materials like Application-cum-Prospectus, Students fee intimation letters, Answer Scripts, Convocation Material, “Opvarsity News” Bulletins, University Calendars, Diaries, Greeting Cards and supplies to various Directorates

of the University. During this academic year, the DMP has undertaken combining the 1st and 2nd Semester volumes of study material into a single volume to save the cost on the title card paper and printing. Thus the DMP recorded a savings to the extent of Rs.8,45,000/- per annum on printing of about 1,366 titles of University self -learning study material relating to UG, PG, Diploma and Certificate programmes. This year the University has printed about 61,05,730 lakh copies. The DMP also mechanized the process of arranging, lifting and dispatching the study material and it dispatches the study material by Express Parcel Post directly to the residential addresses of students enrolled.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA RESOURCES & RESEARCH CENTRE (EMR&RC)

The Electronic Media Resources & Research Centre (EMR&RC), formerly known as AVPRC, takes care of producing digital content by using television studio facilities and distributes it through various media platforms for the benefit distance learners. The studio facilities were revamped in the year 2022 with setting up of a new backdrop, ensuring state-of-the-art equipment, and making the studio ready for the production of video lessons, live streaming on YouTube, and other digital platforms. The Centre is equipped with a television studio featuring three CCD cameras for video lesson production, ensuring compatibility with television networks. The EMR&RC is well-equipped with essential gear, including P2

Camcorders, Sony Camcorders, lighting equipment, and other accessories to support high-quality content production. Work stations, HP Desktop i17, Black Magic D-link Quad, Mini BNC to BNC Cable and VMix Software were the additions made to EMR&RC during the reporting period. During 2022, EMR&RC expanded its reach through various channels for broadcasting and distributing educational content. Collaborating with T-SAT Vidya and Nipuna channels, the centre telecasts video lessons. All India Radio (A.I.R.) broadcasts audio lessons, with designated time slots. The digitized content is readily accessible to students through the University's YouTube channel and web portal. The Centre uses a three-step post-production process for content creation:

1. The first FCP is dedicated to video lessons content editing.
2. The second FCP handles digitization of video lessons, teleconferences conversions, outdoor lectures, and additional editing.
3. The third FCP system is employed to upload digital content to the university's YouTube channel, making it accessible to students.

During the academic year 2022-23, 626 Video lessons were telecast through T-Sat Nipuna and 1252 Video lessons were telecast through T-Sat Vidya, 3344 Radio Lessons, 1959 Video Lessons, 946 Teleconference (TC) through DDK Yadagiri and 409 Teleconference (TC) through Mana TV were

created by EMR&RC. Web radio streaming was started in 2022 all the radio lessons were uploaded and course wise play lists were created, and are playing in loop continuously.

Two new initiatives were taken up in 2023 by the Centre were to deliver electronic content to the students through **"Saarvatrika Vidyaa Vaani" a** web radio Faculty wise channel where the students can search for Zeno mediaSarvatrika Vidyaa Vaani" channel and listen to the course content delivered through audio. The second initiative was the launching of **Dr. BRAOU Mobile App** on 10-07-2023.

CENTRE FOR STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)

The University has set up the Centre for Staff Training and Development (CSTD) in April 1993, as a Human Resource Development and Training Division to provide in-service 'on the job' training to all its employees and functionaries. The objective of CSTD program is to increase personnel efficiency, professional development and effective organization performance. It empowers the employees by updating their knowledge, skills, aptitudes and attitudes. The CSTD organizes workshops, seminars, conferences, faculty development programs, and other academic interactions in the fields of human resource development, office administration, education technologies, and research methodologies in higher education, particularly in distance education.

During the reporting period, the CSTD conducted major training programs on Administration in the Open University System, Study Centre Management, Systems' maintenance and management, Accounts & Auditing, Academic Counselling, Tele-mediated, Audio and Visual Program Development, Course material Development, Writing, Editing, OER Material Development, e-learning Programs, Technology-based, online and blended Teaching and Learning, Computer Training for e-Office implementation and conducted capacity building workshops/Seminars/Conferences/FDP.The CSTD has expanded its focus and scope from 2021 onwards with the support of the external agencies. Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) has recognized CSTD as one of the potential training centres and extended financial support to CSTD to conduct programs on skill development related to Online and Blended mode of teaching for the teachers working in the field of Higher Education. Commonwealth of Learning (COL) recognized CSTD as one of the collaborative units and entered into an MoU with the University to organize training programs, and thus, Dr.BRAOU became a member of "Collective Commons" an initiative of COL.During the academic year 2022-23, the CSTD has organised the following training programmes:

1) an Orientation workshop on Library Automation-Digitalization, Maintenance of Libraries for Library professionals and Faculty working in Universities/Degree/ Govt Polytechnic colleges from 07th to 29th July, 2022;

2) Training Classes on e-office implementation for Teaching/ Non-Teaching/Technical staff from 20th to 23rd September, 2022 and from 31st Oct to 04th November,2022;

3) One day workshop on SPSS v.28.0 Software for the use of Faculty Members on November 23rd 2022;

4) Outcome Based Teaching & Learning (OBTL) for Faculty Teachers and Academic Consultants on 20th & 21st February, 2023;

5) Implementation of National Education Policy-2020: A Way Forward for the Faculty Teachers and Academic Consultants through Online and Offline on 19th May, 2023.

CENTRE FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER PLANNING (CSD&CP)

The University believes in reimagining the vocational education and strives to bring the industry and academics together. For the realization of this objective the University has established CSD&CP to initiate measures to impart outcome-based education by offering Job/labour market oriented skill education courses to enhance employability opportunities and inculcate entrepreneurial capacities of the learners. The CSD&CP is entrusted with imparting Soft Skills, Industry Specific skills, livelihood earning skills, self-employability skills and imparting industry specific training to the learners duly synchronizing with stakeholders. Further, the CSD&CP is also propelled to act as catalyst for collaboration with Industry in

designing job oriented and skill based courses and aims to be projected as a Centre for career guidance that provides a micro view of the job market.During this academic year (2022-23) the Centre has organised a placement drive with Mahindra & Mahindra to provide placements to the undergraduate students and created pathways for integrating Skill Courses into the academic courses. As a part of this the Centre has completed preliminaries to enter into an MOU with Institute of Management and Foreign Studies (IMFS) to provide English and other foreign language training in addition to overseas education counselling to its students. In the year 2022-23 CSD&CP is in the process of preparing tentative preliminary documents to adopt curriculum and guidelines for life skills under Jeevan Kushal Yogana 2.0.

UGC-DEB (DISTANCE EDUCATION BUREAU) AFFAIRS CELL

The UGC-DEB Affairs Cell (2018), initially known as Development Cell (1993) was established to maintain liaison with UGC for implementation of mandatory regulations, mobilization of development and research grants, look after student fellowships, teacher research projects received from UGC/DST and other funding agencies. The UGC-DEB Affairs Cell, which also acts as a data bank, is headed by a Director and other supporting staff. It coordinates with other branches of the University to get the information for preparation of development proposals to seek grants from external funding

agencies.The UGC-DEB Affairs Cell has been playing a key role in the process of getting recognition of UG & PG Programmes of the University from the UGC (DEB), RCI, AICTE, and other regulatory bodies. It coordinates the Interface meetings of the regulations with the University. Within the University, this branch has the responsibility of facilitating staff development activities such as participation in national and international seminars. It also collates development proposals and monitors the disbursement of development grants, maintains audited records of details of expenditure and utilization certificates to be forwarded to the funding bodies.The UGC- DEB Affairs has an active interface with The Commonwealth of Learning, Indira Gandhi National Open University, The Distance Education Council, CEMCA, GoI, MHRD, Department of Science and Technology, Telangana State Council of Higher Education and All other Open and Conventional Universities in the country.

FINANCE BRANCH

"Self-generated funds" collected by way of tuition fee, exam fee and other fees from the learners constitute the baseline financial resources of the University. The University focuses upon the self-sustainability model to generate the required physical and financial resources. The other main source of Finances for the University includes grants from the Government of Telangana and sharing of Learning Material to other sister Universities in the country. During the Financial

Year 2022-23, though the Government of Telangana indicated an allocation of Rs.17.53 Crores towards Block Grants (Grant-in-Aid) but released only Rs.5.43 Crores to the University. The Receipts and Payments of the University for the F.Y. 2022-23 were Rs.107.35 Crores and Rs.116.24 Crores respectively. During the Financial Year 2023-24, the Government of Telangana released only 7.40 Crores as against the allocated Rs.18.96 Crores as Block Grant (Grant-in-Aid) and released only 1st and 2nd Quarters total amounting to Rs.7.40 Crores and remaining 3rd and 4th Quarters are yet to be released.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The Library of the University established in1983 caters to needs teaching, non-teaching employees, students and research scholars of the University. Up to 31st March, 2023, it has a total collection of 1,51,287 books/Non-Book, which also includes recent collection of 281 volumes in various subjects. The University also acquired a collection of over 18,000 valuable books from Sri Late Narla Venkateswara Rao, an Eminent Journalist and Parliamentarian, kept in the Narla Endowment Library established in his honour. Further, the Library also preserved a collection of 1765 gifted books of late Prof G.Ram Reddy, the founder Vice-Chancellor; 1400 donated books of Prof. V. S. Prasad, former Vice-Chancellor. The Library also maintains the repository of all previous years Question papers, all Memorial lectures, copyright free digitized books from Narla Collections to keep them available for use

and online reading. The Library also provides digital network stations with latest educational videos, Wi-Fi facility for Internet browsing, statistical packages required for research scholars and faculty.

The University is also using the Library services through a MoU with INFLIBMET, Ahmedabad. During the financial year 2022-23, the University allocated 30 Lakh rupees for purchase of books and subscription of E- Journals (J-Gate plus & Project Muse) Journals.

ENGINEERING BRANCH

The Engineering Branch is established to take care of creation of infrastructural facilities in the University. On account of installation of roof top 300 KWH capacity solar plant in 2019 at an estimated cost of Rs.1,49,62,860/- with the Govt. of India subsidy amount of Rs.24,23,415/- has fetched dividends to the University. During the first three years, the cumulative savings on power consumption has been assessed as Rs.92,01,742/-. With the utilization of the solar plant, the savings generated by the University in the subsequent years of 2021-22 and 2022-23 comes to Rs.61,79,772/-.The Engineering Branch took up the responsibility of introduction of Aadhar Enabled Biometric Attendance system for the employees; installation of IP based CCTV surveillance systems to ensure public safety and security in the University campus; provision of facilities like lifts and ramps, wash rooms in all the University buildings for public convenience and for the convenience of

physically challenged. In connection with NAAC Peer Team visit during this year, the University has taken up various infrastructure development activities like external and internal painting works of University buildings, renovation of wash rooms, 24x7 Call Centre connectivity; e-learning class rooms, installing digital sign boards, CC Cameras security surveillance, retiring rooms, women's waiting halls and Wi-Fi Campus at an estimated expenditure of Rs.5.00 crores. It also constructed Rainwater harvesting structures, Solid Waste Management by constructing Vermi Compost pits, NADEP compost pits, Primary and Secondary farming units and green shade nets, medicinal plants garden and maintenance of water bodies for ecological improvement.

The branch also made arrangements for creation of conference facilities, meeting halls, e-class rooms, computer labs and smart class rooms in different buildings; constructed Digital model class rooms equipped with e-podium, interactive display screens, i-cam facilities for imparting teaching-learning interaction; established a Photo gallery, Awards gallery in the main Administrative building depicting important events, history & growth of the University; installed Acrylic Digital Display boards and LED scrolling display signages at exterior and interior locations of the University campus for the convenience of the learners.

In recognition of amenities created, the University has received ISO certifications for Green Audit, Environmental

Management Systems, Energy Audit, apart from Quality Management System Audit, from the statutory bodies during the year 2022-23.

COMPUTER CENTER

The Computer Centre of the University looks after online student services which includes online admissions, online examinations registration, result processing, result hosting, online payment collection, etc,. It also takes care of maintenance of IT infrastructure (LAN), Internet and Servers. During the year 2022, it has developed in-house software for redressal of student grievances, introduced new dynamic website, sub-portals for various branches of the University, provided Technical Support for e-Office implementation, and developed separate admission channels to cater to different categories of learners and application formats for issue, dispatch and tracking of certificates.

The Centre has redesigned websites for EMR&RC to display Programme wise Audio/Video lessons, developed applications for Course Material dispatch, tracking the consignment, for registration of the Guest house and new Mobile App for the benefit students to view their Personal, Academic, Examinations details. The Computer Centre, in co-ordination with Telangana State Technological Services (TSTS), has replaced the University LAN with Campus-wide WiFi along with the replacement of high-end LAN switches to support up to 10 Gbps speed.

To address the queries, clarify the doubts and to provide required information to the learners the University has established a Call Centre in January, 2023 which works from 8 AM to 8 PM every day. The Computer Centre is also providing technical support to the Call Centre and has allocated a dedicated toll free number 18005990101.

The Centre also redesigned the Alumni Association applications, extending technical support to examination branch for evaluation of answer scripts, capture online centre-wise examinees attendance while writing their exams and uploaded 15000+ certificates to NAD Digi Locker. Further the Computer Centre also processes data for the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and has prepared ABC IDs for the Students and uploaded Credits data to the ABC portal.

WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION CENTRE (WDEC)

The University has established the Women Development and Extension centre to look after the welfare of women employees and girl students of the University. It strives to address the specific needs of women employees and redressal of their grievances. The Cell made it customary to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) every year on a grand scale. This year it was celebrated on 15.3.2023 by inviting Mrs. Satyavathi Rathod, Hon'ble Minister for Scheduled Tribes, Women and Child Welfare, Govt of Telangana state.

Since the inception of Telangana state, the WDEC is also celebrating Batukamma (Telangana State Festival) every year in the campus by involving all the women employees. The cell also organises Jyotirao Phule Jayanthi celebrations (on 3.01.23) by inviting some public figure. This year Kendriya Sahitya Puraskar awardee and alumni of the University Mrs. Sajaya was invited to deliver a lecture on "Kranti Jyoti Savitribai Phule". Further, the cell also celebrated Mother Tongue Day, in February, 2023, by organising a talk on 'Matrubhasha Kamaneeyam- Vidyasadhana Ramaneeyam'.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The former students of the University have registered to form into an ALUMNI Association of the University and its members are actively working for the expansion of its ideals, contributing to reach the goals and activities of the University to the remotest and unreached areas of both the Telugu speaking states. The Alumni is also planning to organise motivational meetings and job melas for the benefit of the students of the University by inviting corporate companies.

The AAAOU as played an important role during NAAC visit and it has got connected to honourable chancellors flagship program of "Chancellor's Connect Alumni".

SC, ST & BC Cells

The University has established the SC/ST and BC Cells to look after the welfare and address the specific grievances of

the students of these communities. It is mandated to celebrate the birth Anniversaries of Dr.B.R.Ambedkar, Mahatma Jyothi Rao Phule & Savithi Bahi Phule and organise memorial lectures in their honour commemorating their services to the human kind and offers floral tributes to their portraits.

Conclusion:

When the resolve is unwavering the opportunities become endless, Madam chancellor, I along with all the staff members of the university, both teaching and non teaching, assure you that we will channelize all our sincere and best efforts in realising the vision of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, after whom the University is named, to create an egalitarian society where equal opportunities are provided to all the sections of the society. With this resolve allow me to conclude my report on the activities of the university. I once again thank Honourable Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, Governor of Telangana and Chancellor of this University, Distinguished Chief Guest Prof. Mamidala Jagadeesh Kumar, Chairman, University Grants Commission; Esteemed recipient of D.Litt (Honoris Causa) Prof. V.S.Prasad, the dignitaries on and off the dais and all the candidates who successfully graduated from the environs of the University for being a patient audience.

Thank you.

ANNEXURE

NUMBER OF CANDIDATES ELIGIBLE FOR TWENTY FIFTH CONVOCATION

SCODE	COURSE_NAME	MALE	FEMALE	T.G	TOTAL
UG	B.A	6877	7972	0	14849
UG	B.Sc	1056	1723	0	2779
UG	B.Com	1906	1438	0	3344
01	MBA	40	26	0	66
02	M.Sc Mathematics	217	408	0	625
03	M.A.PublicAdmin	145	76	1	222
04	M.A.PolSci	352	166	0	518
05	M.A.ECO	129	70	0	199
06	M.A.His	178	72	0	250
07	M.LI.SC	246	202	1	449
08	M.A.SOCIOLOGY	275	442	1	718
09	M.A.ENGLISH	357	761	0	1118
10	M.COM	96	151	0	247
11	C.P.F.N	63	38	0	101
13	P.G.DIPLOMA IN WRITING FOR MASS MEDIA IN TELUGU	12	2	0	14
14	P.G.DIPLOMA IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	19	16	0	35
15	P.G.DIP. IN BUSINESS FINANCE	5	4	0	9
16	P.G.DIPLOMA IN MARKETING MANAGEMENT	16	11	0	27
17	B.LI.SC	1294	1067	2	2363
20	P.G.DIP. IN WOMEN''S STUDIES	3	16	0	19
21	P.G.DIPLOMA IN HUMAN RIGHTS	29	3	0	32
22	M.SC.BOTANY	43	94	0	137
23	M.SC. CHEMISTRY	90	63	0	153
24	M.SC ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	111	29	0	140
25	M.SC. PHYSICS	49	54	0	103
26	M.SC. ZOOLOGY	48	104	0	152
27	M.A.HINDI	65	172	0	237
28	M.A.TELUGU	443	949	0	1392
29	B.ED	0	0	0	0
35	M.SC PSYCHOLOGY	393	298	0	691
37	M.A.URDU	23	92	0	115
38	B.ED SPECIAL EDUCATION	192	272	0	464
39	C.P.N.G.O.M	2	1	0	3
40	C.P.L.C.D	2	0	0	2
41	P.G.D.C.H.T	3	0	0	3
42	C.E.C.E	23	61	0	84
89	MA JOURNALISM and MASS COMMUNICATION	58	11	0	69
	TOTAL	14860	16864	5	31729

THE VISION

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's social philosophy of education as a means of creating an egalitarian society is the vision of this University. Access to relevant quality education and training programmes for diverse sections of society with a focus on hitherto deprived sections at lower costs by using the modern technologies in teaching-learning processes as well as in administrative and support services is the goal of this University. The University programmes aim at making education and training instruments for living and for making a living.

THE MISSION

- Enrichment of on-going academic programmes;
- Competency building through education and training programmes;
- Interactive individual based teaching learning processes;
- Reliable and credible student evaluation systems;
- Result oriented, accountable and transparent administrative and logistic support systems; and
- Research, innovation, training and networking for system development and staff development.

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